

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Japanese tourists to benefit from 'pre-clearance' accord

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

If a "pre-clearance" deal between the United States and Japan pushes through, tourists from Japan can clear U.S. immigration from the comfort of their own country. It can potentially attract more tourists from Japan at a time when arrivals from that market have been waning.



Torres

U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials met with Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday morning to specifically discuss the planned "pre-clearance" agreement between the Japanese and U.S. governments.

DHS officials, along with agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, met with Torres and officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to look at new and innova-

See **JAPANESE** on **Page 4**

Tourists' rental vehicle is burglarized at Tank Beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A car rented by a family of tourists was burglarized yesterday afternoon at Tank Beach in Kagman, causing the owner to express disappointment as it was their 7th vehicle to be burglarized at the same beach this year.

The Chinese couple said they lost \$2,000 cash, two iPhones, and one camera. The couple were sightseeing at Tank Beach with their 2-year-

» **Seventh time for the company to be victimized by burglars**

See **BURGLARIZED** on **Page 4**

Ogumoro's cash bail increased to \$25K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman increased yesterday from \$5,000 to \$25,000 the cash bail imposed on former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, but reduced to \$500 each the cash bail for his girlfriend and her brother.

According to court documents, Ogumoro brought a 1995 Toyota four-door Tercel that belonged to DPS to a shop for repairs using DPS funds totaling \$2,500 in 2012 and then sold

See **OGUMORO** on **Page 4**

- » **Bail lowered for Ogumoro's ex-cop girlfriend, her brother**
- » **DPS car allegedly repaired for \$2,500 but sold to Herman Manglona for \$50**
- » **DPS staff allegedly surprised DPS computer being used at Ogumoro's bar**

Former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, Herman Manglona (partly hidden), and Katherine Manglona (back) emerge from the courtroom escorted by Corrections officers after their initial court appearance yesterday in Superior Court. Ogumoro and the Manglonas were arrested for corruption charges.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



INSIDE

WORLD

A German jetliner crashes in the Alps, killing all 150 people on board.

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FOCUS

Investigation reveals a brutal truth: Your seafood may come from slaves.

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LIFE & STYLE

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart defend 'Get Hard' after a jolt of criticism.

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Local

APRIL IS ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

A year after brother's death, Ikeda campaigns vs oral cancer



JAYSON CAMACHO

Commonwealth Cancer Association staff, board, anti-cancer groups, supporters, and lawmakers join in a group photo after Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres declared April Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

In Taiwan alone, 5,400 Taiwanese men are diagnosed with oral cancer each year, according to a British Broadcasting Corp. report, and about 80 to 90 percent of them chew betel nut.

Commonwealth Cancer Association board vice president Bo Palacios shared this fact dur-

ing yesterday morning's proclamation of April as Oral Cancer Awareness Month.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led the declaration of April as Oral Cancer Awareness Month and CCA members as well as anti-cancer partners and advocates, including a family member who lost a brother to the disease from betel nut chewing, attended the event.

Mami Ikeda, who read the proclamation with a large picture of her brother Kazunori beside her, told of the agony their family went through during her brother's struggle in fighting oral cancer before passing away from it.

"We all know Kazu, he was an icon here in the CNMI. Aside from losing everyone of our loved ones, I've seen how it

affects our lives, our loved ones, and our children. I for one is an advocate for this, and since it is preventable I think we should all do our part and not wait until it's too late," Torres said.

"It's hard when I know we can do it. I want to thank the family of Kazu for coming out and making the community aware and hope we can save lives as we move forward," he added.

Kazumi was diagnosed with oral cancer on April 2013 and was already terminal. He passed away on Feb. 11, 2014, after fighting cancer for nearly 10 months.

"It was just me and him after both our parents passed and then when he was diagnosed with cancer, I was his caregiver. He didn't let the disease take control of him

and he was very strong about it. My brother said that once he gets cured from the disease, he wants to go to schools and do outreach against [betel nut] chewing," Mami said.

"But now he can't. I am doing this for him now. I am joining CCA during their school visits this April and letting all the kids know and tell the story of my brother. It would make me happy if I could at least inspire some children to advocate this," she added.

'Harsher policies'

Torres said the bigger picture is, "What can the Legislature do to provide more awareness to the community that cancer is preventable?"

"I think at this point it's more about going out to the community and letting them know about these programs in schools because we have young kids chewing betel nut, and that oral cancer can happen to anyone and it is treatable and preventable at an early stage," he said.

Asked if the same policy for smoking should apply to betel nut chewing, Torres said the Legislature should look into that.

"That would be a policy call and the Legislature would need to look into that to get some more statistics on what kind of charges, who to charge, and how the charges are going to be made but that is certainly something that we can look into," he said.

Advocates also sought for better recommendations and better policies toward betel nut chewing.

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MITT talks wrap up; as much as 100 soldiers may train

The U.S. Navy's proposed "Mariana Islands Training and Testing" appears to be consistent with local coastal laws, but matters of protocol and the impact of foot soldier training in Marpi are still being clarified.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the U.S. military recently sent several letters back and forth on the military plan's consistency with local coastal laws.

"One issue that we highlighted in our comments back had to do with the increased number of soldiers training in Marpi," BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman

said in an interview yesterday.

He said the military initially came in saying training would involve "a handful" or a squad of soldiers. But that number has jumped to as many as 100 foot soldiers recently.

"We requested for more information," Rabauliman said. "The challenge that we have is really we don't have data. We are just relying on their data as to what the full impact is going to be with the 100-plus foot soldiers."

He explained that federal consistency would mean that there would be seemingly no

impact on enforceable coastal management policies. But "it's not an authorization for access" to the training ground, he added.

"We are simply saying your proposed activity will not have an adverse effect on the enforceable policies of the state. But again... it's not an authorization for you to go in there and do whatever proposed activity you want. That is a different process."

"We wanted to make that very clear," he added.

BECQ federal consistency specialist Megan Jungwiwattanaporn confirmed the 100 foot

solider number yesterday.

"They say the number of soldiers could go up to a hundred but it will really depend on whatever training schedule they are working," she said. "And that would be contingent on them consulting with other agencies before planning the training."

She disclosed the training proposed is near Cowtown.

"We're waiting for more

information from them. We're interested in hearing more about procedural things. How do they plan to communicate with the CNMI government on planning these trainings? ...We are saying that they are not violating coastal management rules, but in order for them to train in Marpi they'd have to talk to other agencies like [Department of] Public Lands or the Governor's Office," she said.

DCRM has issued a "condi-

tional concurrence" to the military, essentially saying that the military is good to go with the MITT "so long as everything they told us in their previous documents is true," she said.

She said the military is wrapping up discussions on endangered species with the federal government, and they are good to go with the MITT as long as they treat corals and wildlife as well as they said they would. (Dennis B. Chan)

Consular mission kicks off; Arago is confirmed as honorary consul

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Absent an official office on Saipan, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam has confirmed an honorary representative to the CNMI, Eli Arago.

The honorary consul can help process reports of birth and other documents, not including passport renewals.

Consul Mark Francis Hamoy of Guam disclosed yesterday that Arago has "already been accredited by the U.S. State Department" for the position.

"But he still won't be able to enter into his duties until we are able to complete other formalities, such as his oath-taking—which will be scheduled as soon as possible—and the issuance

of his consular mission," Hamoy added.

They hope to complete these procedures by June, Hamoy said.

Right now the CNMI has no Philippine consulate general office. Ten consular posts around the world were closed in 2012 due to cost-cutting measures.

Yesterday, the Philippine Consulate General Office in Guam began their second outreach mission this year at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

This month's mission is "abbreviated," according to Hamoy. It will run three days versus the five days it ran in January.

Hamoy explained they had originally planned a back-to-back mission to Rota following

Saipan, but that was postponed.

Because of this they only expect to process about 360 passports. They usually process around 600.

Hamoy said they expect to return to this number and their five-day stay during their next mission on island.

He said Rota and Tinian missions will no longer be back-to-back with Saipan missions.

Rota and Tinian visits will be scheduled for the "latter part of the year," he said, around the third or fourth quarter.

The office expects to release more than 500 passports during this week's mission, according to Hamoy.

He urged the 500-plus Philippine nationals to claim their passports as soon as they can.

Private schools aim for 'rigorous bylaws'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Coalition of Private Schools is revising their bylaws for "more rigorous" requirements for membership.

According to coalition president Galvin Guerrero, these new standards will require schools to submit curriculum, a list of employees, and certifications.

A "compliance committee" will be formed and an annual certificate given to schools.

He said the coalition plans to publish every year its members, along with their coalition requirements, so the public will what schools are not part of the coalition.

According to Guerrero, their next meeting is in April.

He said since has been elect-

ed as president of the coalition it has been a challenge to get all private schools to agree. Membership on the coalition is voluntary.

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Request for Proposals RFP15-JUDICIARY-01

Print Edition of the 2015 Commonwealth Code

The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission ("LRC") is soliciting sealed proposals for a print edition of the Commonwealth Code. The Code will contain statutes of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, current through June 30, 2015.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **March 5, 2015**, at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on **March 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.**, local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission Offices. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Michael Stanker, Executive Director, via email: michael.stanker@justice.gov.mp and shall only be answered at the mandatory preproposal meeting.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP15-JUDICIARY-01** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **April 3, 2015, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, April 3, 2015**. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 3, 2015, AND** the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **April 10, 2015, close of business**.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Michael A. Stanker
Executive Director, LRC

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Procurement Officer

OGUMORO

From Page 1

the vehicle as “scrap” for only \$50 to Herman Manglona.

Herman Manglona, 45, is the brother of Ogumoro’s girlfriend, 43-year-old Katherine M. Manglona.

Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona, who is a former police officer, also allegedly instructed a DPS staff to bring a DPS desktop computer to a shop for repair using DPS funding in the amount of \$276.

The computer was allegedly later used in the office at True North Bar and Grill in Garapan. Ogumoro, 57, owns the bar.

Ogumoro also allegedly gave his DPS-issued cellular phone to Katherine Manglona, who was then a police officer at DPS, but she did not surrender the phone when she resigned in 2012.

At a hearing yesterday, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds moved to increase the \$5,000 cash bail of each defendant to \$25,000, saying the government considers the three flight risks due to the seriousness of the charges.

In increasing Ogumoro’s bail to \$25,000 cash, Wiseman said the former police official’s situation is different from his co-defendants as he has a pending criminal case. In that pending case, Ogumoro appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court but the high court has yet to rule on it four months on.

The pending criminal case that Wiseman was referring to is OPA’s complaint charging Ogumoro with 15 criminal offenses for his role in, among other things, shielding then-attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Wiseman noted that there is an implication that Ogumoro may have violated his bail order because of the new case. He suggested that the government initiate forfeiture of Ogumoro’s bail in the pending case.

Wiseman ordered Ogumoro not to contact his co-defendant, Herman Manglona, and witnesses in the case, among other conditions.

Ogumoro appeared in court without a counsel. He and Katherine Manglona told the court that attorney Edward Arriola is their counsel.

Wiseman allowed Katherine Manglona to post \$500 cash and \$4,500 in unsecured bond, considering that she has no criminal history. She was ordered to stay away from her brother, Herman, and witnesses in the case.

Wiseman allowed Herman Manglona to post \$500 cash and \$4,500 in unsecured bond.

The judge also informed Herman Manglona that he has an outstanding bench warrant over a traffic case. Wiseman ordered Herman

Manglona to pay the bail in the traffic case and appear in court for that traffic matter today, Thursday, at 9am.

Wiseman also stated in court that he served as counsel for Herman Manglona’s father, former senator Herman Manglona Sr., about 20 years ago.

Herman Manglona was ordered to stay away from Ogumoro, Catherine Manglona, and witnesses in this case.

Preliminary hearing for the three defendants will be on March 31 at 1:30pm and arraignment will be on April 6 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Herman Manglona, who stated he is jobless and can’t afford to hire private counsel.

Office of the Public Auditor-Task Force Officer Melissa Bauleong stated in her report that on March 4, 2013, an internal investigation within DPS was launched to verify alleged illegal activities or transactions committed by Ogumoro with respect to the surveying of DPS vehicles.

Bauleong said preliminary findings indicate that Ogumoro, during his term as acting DPS commissioner, used his authority and position to orchestrate and manipulate the system into surveying several government vehicles, when in fact the vehicles had just been repaired using federal program funding.

Bauleong said one of the several vehicles that were allegedly surveyed in this fashion was a blue 1995 Toyota four-door Tercel with government license plate 38-06.

Bauleong said that on March 4, 2013, she and another detective visited DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicle where they found out that the Toyota Tercel with government license plate 38-06 now has a license plate AEF-382 and is registered to Herman Manglona.

Bauleong said a review of the file for the car showed that the vehicle registration application was filled and that Ogumoro’s signature was on it.

Bauleong said the bill of sale was signed by Procurement and Supply director Herman Sablan.

Bauleong said they proceeded to Procurement and Supply in Lower Base, where they met the procurement manager, who explained the process of surveying government vehicles. The manager disclosed that he does not recall ever seeing the Tercel car that was surveyed by Ogumoro. The manager said director Sablan told him that the car already had a buyer, Herman Manglona, who was at the area and that the vehicle was inoperable.

The manager provided the detectives with a copy of a memorandum written by Ogumoro to Sablan and the subject was “Survey Vehicle for Auction.”

Bauleong said the memo-

randum specifically requested that the appraisal value of the car be approximately \$50.

On March 18, 2013, a detective met with the owner of an auto shop in Susupe that repaired the Tercel.

The owner revealed that a police officer towed the Tercel due to mechanical problems and when he told the officer that it would cost between \$2,500 and \$3,000 to repair it, the car was left in the shop for several months.

The shop owner disclosed that in September 2012, Ogumoro showed up at his shop and instructed him to repair the vehicle immediately—even if it costs more than \$2,000.

Later that week, Ogumoro showed up to the shop and dropped off a purchase order for the shop to repair the Tercel. Upon receiving the purchase order, the shop repaired the car, which was later picked up by a police officer.

Bauleong said the shop owner gave a detective a copy of the invoice that indicated repair costs for the Tercel, which at that time had a government license plate, 38-06.

Bauleong said that, on May 24, 2013, she interviewed Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana Leon Guerrero, who claimed she was in her office when Ogumoro and Herman Manglona arrived. Leon Guerrero said Ogumoro asked her to help Herman Manglona register his vehicle.

Leon Guerrero said she took the vehicle registration form and filled it out for Herman Manglona, but Ogumoro signed for it.

Bauleong said Guerrero later provided a copy of a purchase order for repair and maintenance of government vehicles in the amount of \$10,070.

One of the invoice numbers indicated that repair had been made to Toyota Tercel GOVT 38-06 in the amount of \$2,500. A check was also attached dated Oct. 22, 2012.

On May 28, 2013, Bauleong said she and another detective showed a copy of the memorandum that was written by Ogumoro to Sablan, requesting that the Tercel be surveyed.

Sablan assured that he does not recall ever seeing the memorandum letter. Sablan said his policy is he would stamp-receive letters upon review.

Sablan said the letter did not bear any stamp from him and therefore he was certain that he never received or reviewed it.

Sablan admitted he approved the survey form because he based his decision on information Ogumoro indicated in the survey—that the vehicle was poor, worn out, and reduced to scrap.

Sablan then asked the Procurement manager if the Tercel was brought to their office for inspection, but the manager said it was never taken to their office.

Sablan stated that because Ogumoro was the deputy commissioner at DPS at that time, he assumed that what Ogumoro indicated on the survey form was true and that it was under that assumption that Sablan approved and sold the car for \$50.

Bauleong said further investigation showed that the Tercel has recently undergone a new paint and is now silver with license plate AEF-382 registered to Herman M. Manglona and Joan C. Manglona of Gualo Rai.

On the computer matter, Bauleong said that on March 7, 2013, a detective met with a DPS employee who revealed that a Dell desktop computer as well as a government-issued cellular phone were allegedly being misused by a ranking DPS official.

Preliminary investigation showed that in October 2012, Ogumoro picked up the DPS employee from his house to check one of the DPS computers. Bauleong said the DPS employee was shocked when Ogumoro instead brought him to True North Bar in Garapan, where the DPS computer was inside the office.

The employee went ahead and checked the computer in the office, in the presence of then-police officer Katherine Manglona. The employee noticed that the computer was the same equipment he saw inside the office of his brother, then-police director Aniceto Ogumoro. The employee said he noticed that the computer still had a government tag on it.

The employee told Ogumoro that the computer needed repairs to the motherboard because it was damaged from electrical fluctuation.

The employee said Ogumoro later instructed him not to mention the computer that was being used at his bar to anyone.

The computer was later brought to a computer service shop for repair using an account from BMV. Katherine Manglona later allegedly instructed the employee to pick up the computer from the repair shop and drop it off at True North Bar & Grill.

Bauleong said that, on March 11, 2013, a computer repair shop staff showed a copy of job order dated Oct. 9, 2012, for the computer repair. The purchase order indicated that the cost for repair and parts was \$276.

Bauleong said further investigation showed that there were cellular phones that were issued to Ogumoro under two numbers.

The detective said the cellular number using 670-285-9054 was issued to Ogumoro for him to use, but he gave it to Katherine Manglona, who was at the time still employed at DPS under the logistics and supply support section. In July 2012, Kath-

erine Manglona resigned from DPS, but she allegedly did not surrender the phone.

On Feb. 23, 2013, Ogumoro allegedly called a staff from IT&E and requested the cellular phone number 670-285-9054 be disconnected because he didn’t need the phone anymore.

Ogumoro then personally visited the IT&E staff at his office to make sure that the number had been disconnected.

For the cellular phone number 670-285-5286, Bauleong said investigation revealed that the phone was issued to Ogumoro since 2010 and that it was being funded under a local account, and that the mobile unit was still in use under the DPS commissioner’s office account.

The detective said the cel-

lular phone number 670-285-5286 had been in constant communication with the recently disconnected number 670-285-9054.

Police arrested Ogumoro and Katherine Manglona on Monday on Saipan. Herman Manglona was arrested on Tinian on Tuesday.

Ogumoro was arrested for misconduct in public office, theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and removal of government property.

Katherine Manglona was arrested for theft by unlawful taking or disposition, and conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

Herman Manglona was arrested for receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition.

power but depends on what model CBP would be looking at.

“There are unique authority issues here and we’re looking at something that is probably going to take up to three to five years to complete so it is something very long term. We’re negotiating with Japan, other host governments, and legal authorities,” he said.

Winkowski said they are going to work on a memorandum of agreement and come up with a broader agreement with some working groups to tackle the issue.

He noted that he will be meeting with the airlines involved at the Saipan’s airport because CBP intends to bring all the stakeholders into the discussion.

Torres, in a separate interview, said this will be a great opportunity for Japanese tourists to come to Saipan more easily and thus boost the Japan market, which traditionally was the islands’ bread and butter before waning the past couple of years.

Winkowski said they will later work on the other tourist markets coming to Saipan, but he didn’t present any specific timeframe.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

tive ways of making clearance through immigration and customs more efficient.

The “pre-clearance” deal focuses solely on passenger processing where the same immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections of international air passengers performed on arrival in the U.S can instead be completed before departure at foreign airports.

Thomas S. Winkowski, former acting commissioner for U.S. CBP who now serves as an adviser, said one of the things he talked about with Torres and local authorities handling the airport is a partnership with Japan where they would do pre-clearance operations to pre-cleared passengers that are destined for Saipan.

“That would reduce the wait time and enable us to handle the process in Japan so when the passengers come off the aircraft they can just proceed to Saipan and do their business,” he said.

Winkowski said it wouldn’t necessarily require more man-

BURGLARIZED

From Page 1

old son when their rented car, a 2014 Camaro, was burglarized in the parking lot of the beach.

It was another group of tourists in the area that told them that their car had been burglarized.

The Camaro’s front passenger side window was shattered and the canopy was also cut, possibly with a knife.

Witnesses said there were three suspects but only one got down from a car and burglarized the tourists’ vehicle. The burglar was described as wearing a light blue shirt and dark blue short pants.

“It’s a shame. We’re here for a few days of vacation and this thing happened to us,” said the husband, who claimed that he’s been to many places but this was his first time to become a victim of burglary.

Aside from losing their money and other items, the husband said that QQ Car Rental also asked them to pay \$4,000 for the damage to the car because it was apparently not covered by insurance.

When *Saipan Tribune* asked QQ Car Rental president James Han to explain why the couple are being made to pay \$4,000 when they’re the victims in the case, Han said he will lower the amount to \$1,000. Han said the canopy is very expensive.

Han said they have been telling their customers not to leave money or items inside the car because that will not be covered by insurance.

Han also appealed to police to arrest these burglars, whom he believes are the same persons who victimized their customers at Tank Beach.

The tourists arrived on Saipan on Monday. They were scheduled to fly back to China tonight, Thursday.

'Impact study needed on CHCC, DPH separation talks'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Saipan), a fiscal impact analysis is needed on the possible separation of the Division of Public Health from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The CHCC confirmed yesterday

that there are indeed discussions on splitting up the hospital and the Public Health division.

"In my opinion, it is highly recommended that a fiscal impact or analysis be first conducted to determine its costs benefits prior to its implementation," Santos said.

"As some of us know, the

programs and/or services provided by public health are 100-percent federally funded while clinical are not and as such, with its current set up, those services provided by the clinical are being subsidized by public health including its supplies, operations, and equipment," she said.

Santos, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, added that the law also needs to be amended.

"Further, to separate public health from clinical would require amending or modifying Public Law 16-51, including identifying at least a minimum of \$10 million to sufficiently

fund the clinical operations of CHCC," Santos said.

She emphasized that she is not against the proposal, nor is she in favor of it as of this point. Santos added that lawmakers should study this further before arriving at a decision.

CHCC board chair Jack Torres earlier said there are indeed discussions on the planned split and that he was meeting Gov. Eloy S. Inos to talk about this.

Torres said he is not in favor of separating CHCC into two entities.

"Status quo is preferred. I'd like to see that it remains under the corporation. Some members of the 19th Legislature want to



Santos

see the two separated and I think the governor is leaning toward it. I want to explain to the governor to see that it remains as is. [CHCC chief executive officer] Esther Muña and I seem to be in the same agree-

ment and we would like to see the two remain as is and once we're basically settled down, we can discuss separation. But not at this time. My personal preference would be for DPH and the hospital to be as is," Torres said.

He confirmed that there are still no concrete details about the proposal, like possible legislation being introduced or an executive order being drafted.

Casino commission to hold public hearing; will give updates on regs

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission will hold a public hearing on Capital Hill this Friday and give an update on the casino regulations that the regulatory body has been working on.

According to commission chair Juan Sablan, the commission is "close" to drafting the casino regulations.

Sablan said the regulations and other updates were discussed during the commission's regular meeting yesterday.

Commissioner Martin DLG. San Nicolas said the commission continues to consult with lawyers on the casino regulations.

The draft regulations will then be sent to the Governor's Office and to the Office of the Attorney General.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. will also get a copy of the approved regulations, San Nicolas said.

The casino commission has undergone preliminary training on casino management in preparation for the opening of Best Sunshine's temporary "live" training facility at the T-Galleria

in Garapan.

The "live" training facility mimics an actual casino and actual games will be played for tourists and visitors. As such, it is subject to regulations.

Sablan earlier said that members of the casino commission are set to fly to Las Vegas next month to continue training for the impending opening of a casino on Saipan.

The commissioners earlier this month flew to Las Vegas for a three-day training, according to Sablan.

He said the April training will be longer, and will take one week. He described the previous training as "intensive," combining both on-campus and gaming floor training.

The five-man commission underwent training at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. They will be back in April to continue training, Sablan said.

According to its website, the University of Nevada in Las Vegas offers casino auditing and casino management to improve "casino controls, policies, and procedures."

The commission last month completed the roster of commissioners, following an intense

scrutiny of candidates.

Early this year, the commission bared plans to undergo the training off-island.

The Inos administration on March 6 signed an amended casino agreement with Best Sunshine International allowing Best Sunshine to set up a "live" training facility.

Investments on Capital Hill should be on private lands, says lawmaker

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another hotel is expected to rise along a swath of private land on Capital Hill.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board announced last month that it has permitted Saipan International Real Estate Development Corp., which operates Ocean Vista Resort, to operate the resort.

The resort is planned to be built along Isa Drive.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, who attended the Zoning Board hearing, said he is in favor of the new investment.

"As long as it's on private land, these new investors are welcome," Guerrero said. "Capital Hill, in my opinion, is attractive for one reason—the view."

Guerrero said the area in which Vista Resort is expected to be constructed is "beneficial for the landowner, and did not encompass public land."

He said there was a com-



Guerrero

ment from the landowner adjacent to the proposed site at the public hearing. "The neighboring landowner did complain of possible sound and noise pollution," Guerrero said.

He said, however, that this should not stop investors, and that there should be a balance and that the best interest of the majority should be considered.

The possible complaints, he said, are all noted.

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete Tenorio earlier said two groups of investors are proposing to build two projects on Capital Hill: a cultural center and a small, 60-room hotel.

The other details of the proposals, however, remain under wraps pending a review.

One of the investors is a local, joint venture company, while the other is a foreign-owned corporation, but with a local office in the CNMI. One of the companies already submitted a project proposal for the small hotel that is now with DPL.

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Q&A: International concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In what is fast becoming a musical event that everybody looks forward to every year, international concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky is once again on Saipan, performing for three whole nights over the weekend at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

His mastery of classical music was not only on display in how he played the piano but also in his interpretation of timeless pieces—a melodic show of technical wizardry and emotional heft that had the audience clamoring for more. Here is a man who is not only gifted in playing the piano, he

also knows the history of each piece, its composer, and what the music means.

Saipan Tribune sat down with Rudnytsky a day after his final performance for an intimate tête-à-tête:

Q: How many times have you visited Saipan and what keeps drawing you back?

A: It goes back 21 years. I think it was back in 1994 when I first came here and I do remember that I was filming stuff here. I can say this is my sixth time to visit Saipan.

I come often because I have been getting invitations from the last number of years from the Friends of the Arts. I kept getting invited so every time I plan that I would be in this part of the world, I come here. Hav-



JAYSON CAMACHO
International concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky is once again on Saipan and will be here until April 7.

ing a combination of a music career is kind of a combination of being invited to come back to places you've already been to and also touring places you haven't been to as well. You always want to both be at a new place and return back to where you've visited before.

Q: How long will you be here this time?

A: I will be here until April 7. I have a number of things coming up during my stay here. That includes performances in some schools and some church groups, but I'll have a bit of extra time because my next concert is in New Zealand from mid-April to the end of April. Because of that I decided on where I would like to be and that's here. On April 7, I will be heading to Guam and then to New Zealand.

Q: You mentioned schools you will be playing at.

A: I will be playing in Marianas High School. I've played at Saipan Southern High School including the schools in Kagman. I've done this before during my recent visits. There also may be a couple of schools as well. In other words, I am still available that maybe somebody locally might want some lessons for the piano. I would be available while I am here, but apart from that I'll be having a relaxing time here before I leave.

Q: Why do you make an effort to reach out to schools? Why do you feel that is important?

A: I think it is important to expose young people to classical music because for the vast majority they have never seen it and it's new to them. They may have heard a little about excellent playing of pianos and classical music, but that concept doesn't remain solid in their mind until they've actually seen it and it is a new experience to them.

I perform by memory, which is a new way pianists perform and they probably will be fascinated by that. You never know in a performance how you might impact someone later on because some students sitting and listening might go to their parents and ask them that they want to learn an instrument. That is the beauty of it.

Q: What inspired you to play the piano? Who was your role model?

A: I never decided to play the piano; the piano chose me. What I mean by that is that it was always there. It was never a conscious decision; my family was entirely in classical music. My father was a pianist but primarily a composer and

a conductor. My mother was an opera singer and both of them came from Ukraine. My whole family was in the atmosphere of classical music. I was 4 years old and I had perfect pitch. When you played a note I could automatically figure it out. These were signs to my parents that it was pulling me toward playing the piano.

Q: How was that? Were you somehow forced into playing piano?

A: No, my parents were not like that. We enjoyed our music on our own time. My brother and I had a normal childhood. We did the same things growing up so we weren't deprived or denied to have a social life and I am grateful for that.

Q: I know you get asked this a lot but do you have any favorite composer?

A: I would say that I like those that I play but, yes, I do favor the French composers such as Claude Debussy and Maurice Chavel. Because of them I learned everything that both of these composers wrote for piano. I do have others and they are Franz Liszt and Fryderyk Chopin. Music from Hispanic composers attract me as well.

Q: We have a lot of youngsters taking up music lessons. Do you have any message for them?

A: First of all, if you have talent, talent is only raw material. You have to work hard to refine your talent. It is a lot of hard work and a lot of practicing so it is ideal if you are able to work with a good teacher. Don't try to teach yourself. The thing is, you really should be working with a teacher as hard as you can because a performing career is very difficult in itself. Whatever is satisfying to you, if it is a career for you, you have to define it. Try to expose yourself to these classical music areas, museums, and other areas where you normally won't go.

Q: What are the challenges of being a pianist or performer?

A: I think different people would answer that in different ways. I don't really know, but for me it is something that I do naturally and normally in which I feel pretty confident about when I am performing. A challenge for any interpreter or performer is try to perform in a way that gives the audience some kind of positive experience. Interpretation. You need to understand what the composer wrote, its history, the composer, and then know what you are performing.

Q: Do you see yourself retiring?

A: I don't see me retiring at all. I have no plans to stop performing. As long as I can perform I will continue to perform and won't stop.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

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CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM SUMMER PROGRAM 2015 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community/faith based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant for 2015. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 13 years old. For this grant, a total of ten (10) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate.

CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office,
Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 9690

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and six (6) copies of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2015. **All applications must be stamped received no later than April 10, 2015 at 3:00p.m.** Incomplete applications will be returned. Faxed and e-mailed applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant.

Inquiries regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Roselle Teregeyo, CCDF Accountant/Summer Program Lead before **March 27, 2015** and can be made in the following way:

1. In writing and forwarded to the address above or
2. Thru e-mail at ccdf.roselleteregeyo@gmail.com

All inquiries made after March 27, 2015 will not be entertained. Phone inquiries will not be accepted.

Approved for distribution: /s/ Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Date: March 17, 2015

'Suit seeks to reassert Tinian casino commission's independence, power'

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission filed a lawsuit on Monday in an effort to reassert its independence and power to effectively regulate casino gaming on Tinian. The lawsuit asks the CNMI Superior Court to declare that recent local laws enacted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation attempted to amend the Tinian Casino Gaming Act in ways that would impair the power of the Gaming Commission to oversee gaming on Tinian and are either invalid or unconstitutional.

"The Tinian Gaming Act was designed to give to its commissioners independence from political interference and influence," said Robert O'Connor, the legal counsel for the TCGCC and the author of the Gaming Act back in 1987. "That is why the Act gave the commissioners high salaries, limited each of them to one six-year term, and protected them from being fired or removed during their tenure. We wanted independent commissioners free from political pressures. Commissioners do not need campaign contributions for their next campaign. What is happening now is applicants for licenses and licensees who cannot convince the commission on the merits of their proposal are instead going to the elected representatives on Tinian and asking them to use the legislative process to force through changes the commission feels are unwise or inappropriate. Their recent Budget Act even attempts to tell the commissioners how much to pay each employee, whether to give them raises or not, and how much to pay their executive director. This is an indirect way to try and influence commission behavior."

According to the complaint filed Monday, "...the Tinian Local Delegation has undermined the authority and the ability of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission to effectively regulate casino gaming on Tinian, both directly, by interfering with the internal workings of the commission, and indirectly,

by implicitly setting itself up as a rival power center to which those dissatisfied with the policies of the commission may appeal. It is essential to effective gambling control on Tinian that gambling be regulated by an independent party free from political concerns."

One result of the undermining of the commission, according to O'Connor and officials of the commission, is that the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is currently in noncompliance with the Gaming Act to such an extent that Deloitte & Touche has been unable to complete a required annual audit of its financial situation. The audit was due last July.

"Local laws passed by the Tinian Local Delegation are directly responsible for this non-compliance," said O'Connor. "They passed laws changing the tax structure by taxing premium players at a 5-percent rate instead of the Gaming Act's 12-percent rate without properly defining premium players or gross revenue, and a local law to allow gambling on credit without properly providing for how to trace back who got credit and whether they paid their debt. Now the commission's efforts to solve these noncompliance issues by forcing the casino to properly manage itself is being resisted by the casino who has hired lobbyists, including relatives of local legislators, to try and force the commission to approve agreements and issue licenses to applicants before these mismanagement issues are resolved, even though those agreements are in blatant violation of the Gaming Act."

At last Wednesday's commission meeting the present unlicensed operators of the Tinian Dynasty, who took over the casino without first gaining commission approval as required by the Act, pushed the commission to approve a new Operating Agreement which would have allowed the present licensee of the casino, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Invest-

ments Ltd., to sublease all of its assets, including the hotel and casino and the casino license to a newly formed company, Tinian Entertainment Company.

The commission refused, pointing out that the assets that were to be subleased were presently subject to a federal criminal forfeiture action, and assisting in the transfer of those assets to another entity could be construed as obstructing the prosecution of that case. The commission pointed out that the proposed agreement violated the Gaming Act in numerous ways, including a provision that would have allowed the casino owners to simply "assign" the interest in the hotel and casino to any nominee of their choice for \$1. The commission explained how no gaming jurisdiction could possibly approve such an agreement allowing a casino license to be sold for \$1 to just anyone, including persons who might have unsavory backgrounds. The commission insisted as a condition to considering any license sale or sublease that the casino first come into compliance by having outside managers come into the casino and find out what is happening to the gaming revenues being collected and getting that collection and accounting into compliance with the Act.

"We need local politicians to let the commission do its job," said O'Connor. "Right now applicants and licensees run to the mayor or the delegation instead of dealing with the commission, and this is undermining the commission's ability to do its job. It is the reason really why the casino is noncompliant and has resisted coming into compliance. This is resulting in the loss of enormous amounts of revenue for the residents if Tinian and is jeopardizing jobs. We want the gaming industry to respect Tinian as a well regulated jurisdiction and that is not going to happen if that industry does not learn that this political interference has been halted." (PR)

No results yet on Tinian ground water study for military's use

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The results are not yet in on the U.S. military study of Tinian groundwater wells.

According to Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman and Safe Drinking Water manager Jose Kaipat, the Marine Corps Forces Pacific, which led the water study, have not yet shared their results as of yesterday.

MARFORPAC is looking at alternatives for water and wastewater capabilities to ac-

commodate military presence on Tinian.

Many of these wells are believed to be uncapped and left over from World War II.

BECQ would prefer, if possible, that these wells be rehabilitated for military use, versus the drilling of new ones on Tinian.

However, Rabauliman indicated yesterday that drilling these wells might be a possibility.

He said ideally, the military would hook up to the water distribution line on Tinian. "But I realize that the closest water line may be some distance from where they are proposing their

activities," he added.

"We wanted the military to see if they could update that information [on existing wells]," he said. "Whether these are rehabilitable or not."

Last month, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality monitored the inspection of three of these rehabilitated wells south of the Westfield airport. The study was contracted to AECOM, who then subcontracted another company to do the study. The bureau had requested that these sample results be shared.

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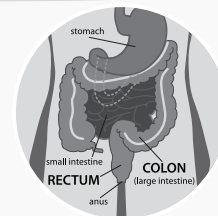
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If you have any of these risks, you may need to start screening before age 50 and be tested more often than other people.



For more information:
www.cdc.gov/cancer/colorectal/

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Foreigners must report US agricultural land holdings

BARRIGADA, Guam—The executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Guam County, Thomas Camacho, reminds foreign persons with an

interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required to report their holdings and any transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"Any foreign person who

acquires, transfers or holds any interest, other than a security interest, including leaseholds of 10 years or more, in agricultural land in the United States is required by law to report the

transaction no later than 90 days after the date of the transaction," said Camacho.

Foreign investors must file Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act reports

with the FSA county office that maintains reports for the county where the land is located.

"Failure to file a report, filing a late report or filing an inaccurate report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land," said Camacho.

For AFIDA purposes, agricultural land is defined as any land used for farming, ranching or timber production, if the tracts total 10 acres or more.

Disclosure reports are also required when there are changes in land use. For example, reports are required when land use changes from nonagricultural to agricultural or from agricultural to non-

agricultural. Foreign investors must also file a report when there is a change in the status of ownership such as the owner changes from foreign to non-foreign, from non-foreign to foreign or from foreign to foreign.

Data gained from these disclosures is used to prepare an annual report to the President and Congress concerning the effect of such holdings upon family farms and rural communities in the United States.

For more information regarding AFIDA and FSA programs, contact the Guam County FSA office at 671-472-7568 Ext. 2 or visit the USDA website at <http://www.usda.gov>. (**USDA**)

'How Deep is Your Love' signup extended to Friday

Those who want to attend the "How Deep is Your Love?" couples event that Life in the Son Saipan is organizing this Sunday, March 29, have until tomorrow, March 27, to sign up.

"How Deep is Your Love?" will be held from 3pm to 9pm at the Kanoa Resort Seaside Hall.

Mark and Terry Benavente will be conducting the couples event and it will be made up of two sessions: "Identification of Love" and "Rightly Expressing Emotions."

Identifications of love are those words, gestures, actions, and attitudes we interpret as love from others. Learn how these "packages" become idols that define and limit our idea of what true love is to us. When we demand these "packages" of love from those around us, we practice unregenerate love, denying ourselves the full joy in giving and receiving true love.

Rightly Expressing Emotions looks to Jesus as a model for dealing with our own human emotions. Through His responses in the Garden of Gethsemane, we explore some of the wrong attitudes we have about our own emotional life. We will learn what emotions are, how to identify and accept them, as well as how to express them appropriately. When we learn to do this as Jesus did, it becomes possible for us to share who we truly are with others.

Mark has been a pastor for over 20 years in Guam. He is a graduate of the University of Hawaii in Communications and is presently the Pastor of Life in the Son Christian Fel-



Mark and Terry Benavente pose with their daughters Tara and Nicole.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lowship, an Every Nation Church in Guam.

Terry has worked with the Department of Education in Guam for over 28 years and more recently retired as a Behavior Specialist with the department. She graduated from the University of Guam with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and a master's in Special Education.

Both Mark and Terry attended the International School of Theology in Colorado. They have also been involved with

Elijah House Ministries for over 15 years. They are the founders and directors of Elijah House Guam, a faith-based counseling ministry and one of 11 International Elijah Houses.

The ministry of Elijah House Guam has extended into other countries such as Singapore and Jakarta where they have conducted schools, seminars on marriage, parenting, and inner healing as well as provide individual counseling and internship training.

The Benaventes presently reside in Guam and have two

daughters, Tara and Nicole, who attend the University of Portland.

Participation in "How Deep is Your Love?" costs \$20 per person. To RSVP, call 285-4949, email lifeinthesonsaipan@gmail.com, download the RSVP form at www.lifeinthesonsaipan.org or visit 3Strands Christian Outlet in Gualo Rai (235-4438). The store is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am-7pm. RSVP on or before Friday, March 27, as seats are limited. No childcare is provided during the event. (**PR**)

Head Starts preps for self-assessment

The CNMI Head Start program has completed this month the revision of their self-assessment monitoring tool.

According to program director Melissa Palacios, they needed to do that to be sure that the program is including in those tools any updated regulations or new requirements.

With this completed, the program is ready to begin their actual self-assessment.

According to Palacios, they have requested CNMI State of Board of Education members to be a part of the assessment. Board member Tanya King has

been confirmed to attend, according to Palacios.

Confirmation of attendance from other partnering agencies is still pending, she said.

On top of the self-assessment, the program is also working on a community assessment.

The program has requested data from community partners and agencies to update their annual community reports, and some data is still pending, according to Palacios.

An update to these assessments is expected in next month's board meeting. (**Dennis B. Chan**)

PDN circulation dries up on Saipan

The *Pacific Daily News* has not circulated in the CNMI reportedly for the last several years, due to costs in shipping.

PDN operations manager Bill Windham said, "Currently, we do not deliver to Saipan."

"...Because of shipping it became too expensive," Windham explained.

He said he is not a hundred percent sure on the date when circulation ended but pointed to

longer past last year.

Other PDN circulation staff said services were discontinued to the CNMI around two to three years ago.

The *Pacific Daily News* is a morning edition newspaper based in Hagatna, Guam, and is published seven days a week. According to its Facebook page, they are published and distributed throughout Guam, the Mariana Islands and Micronesia. (**Dennis B. Chan**)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 26, 2012

Burglars hit Garapan school

It was an emotional day for over 800 students at Garapan Elementary School after learning they lost thousands of dollars worth of precious equipment and other instructional materials to burglars, who struck not once but twice this week. GES principal Paulette Sablan disclosed yesterday that the school was victimized twice on the mornings of Sunday and Monday. Over \$10,000 worth of new computers and other equipment were stolen in both incidents. Sablan said that a school security guard discovered the break-

in early Sunday morning in one of the fifth-grade classrooms. The burglars took off with five iMac computers and an LCD projector—all brand new and recently issued—estimated at about \$8,000.

Man, 50, arrested for alleged sexual abuse of girl

Police arrested Friday a 50-year-old man for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl at a residence in Dandan. Domingo Lantican Dy was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing on the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. His bail was

set at \$10,000 cash. Police detective Jason T. Tarkong stated in his report that police officers responded Thursday to a reported sexual abuse of a minor. Tarkong said the incident happened on Wednesday when the girl told her mother that Dy made her touch his privates in the shower room.

March 26, 2009

From over \$1 billion in sales to zero

From over \$1 billion in annual garment sales, Saipan now has virtually zero income from its once mighty industry that produced clothing for global brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Gap, Levi's, Abercrombie and Fitch, Polo Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and Liz Claiborne. This month, not a single penny in garment sales was recorded, and government collection from user's fee was zero. The last time the CNMI gov-

ernment collected a monthly user's fee was in February 2009—only \$746.13, government data obtained yesterday by *Saipan Tribune* shows.

Woman hurt in car mishap files suit

A woman is suing the driver of the pickup truck that hit her car in front of San Vicente Church last November. Marjorie O. Arugay, through lawyer Eric S. Smith, sued Robert Palacios Camacho for negligence. Arugay asked the Superior Court to order the defendant to pay her damages for pain and suffering, physical injuries, mental anguish, stress injuries, and for the loss of the use of her vehicle. Arugay claimed that as a result of Camacho's negligence and carelessness, she suffered physical injuries and mental shock. Police said a traffic investigator found Camacho at fault for failing to maintain his right half of the highway.

March 26, 2005

Babauta pays \$140K for consultant, marathon

Gov. Juan N. Babauta initially authorized the release of \$250,000 in November 2003 for the payment of a Washington D.C.-based consultant and funding for the Saipan-Korean marathon. Documents showed that Babauta asked the Department of Finance to expend \$150,000 for legal services provided by telecommunications attorney Thomas K. Crowe. He also agreed to shoulder \$100,000 of the costs associated with the holding of the first annual Korean marathon. But in a Dec. 2003 letter to the Finance Department, Babauta re-directed the funds "as the costs of these two programs was less than expected." The governor then instructed Finance to pay only \$40,000 for the marathon, \$100,000 for Crowe, and \$100,000 for Daryl Owen, whom he hired to lobby

for the recovery of \$100,000 in cover-over tax.

Funding needed for Carolinian dictionary CD reproduction

The Carolinian Affairs Office is lobbying for funds to electronically mass reproduce the revised Carolinian dictionary. Frank Rabauliam, chair of the Carolinian and Related Language Assistance, said during a presentation at a session of the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation last week that his team has come up with a more organized, authoritative, and comprehensive version of the Carolinian dictionary in a compact disc. He said the group would want to reproduce the CDs for sale and distribution to schools, the Northern Marianas College library, courts and public libraries. "We hope to eventually put it on the web so that everybody can access it," said Rabauliam.

Grants help FSM cope with climate change, enhance livelihoods

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia—The U.S. Agency for International Development's Pacific American Climate Fund has awarded grants to two organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia to enhance the resilience of the island communities against the impact of climate change and improve their livelihoods.

Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei will receive \$343,590 for its initiative, Climate Change Adaptation and Income Diversification in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, to boost the income-earning opportunities for Pohnpei's 35,000 inhabitants, and the College of Micronesia - FSM will receive \$556,264 for its Climate Resilient Adoption and Mainstreaming project to educate community members of climate-resilient agricultural methods on the island of Yap.

Communities in the FSM are among the most environmen-

tally vulnerable groups in the Pacific Islands, suffering from flooding, loss of biodiversity, and soil degradation. The new projects aim to help the residents better manage risks related to changing weather patterns and adopt strategies to preserve their environment and improve income opportunities.

At the launch event held in Pohnpei on March 25, 2015, the chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy, Hugues Ogier, said, "We work hand in hand to respond to the threat of climate change and find solutions to best cope with it. It is a pleasure to celebrate with you today this assistance provided by the American people to the people of Micronesia."

With the USAID support, the first grantee, MERIP, a humanitarian, non-profit organization, will work to confront the decreasing fish habitat and coral cover on the coast of the Island of Pohnpei by supporting small-



From left, Maurice Knight, regional office director, USAID/Pacific Islands; Simon Ellis from MERIP; Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai from College of Micronesia-FSM; Hugues Ogier, deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy Kolonia. Ellis and Krishnapillai display their certificates of awards for their respective organizational grants from the USAID PACAM Awards.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY US envoy urges Pohnpei women to take responsibility for themselves



U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA

U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen delivers the keynote speech on Friday, March 13, at Pohnpei's celebration of International Women's Day.

U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen presented the keynote remarks on Friday, March 13, at Pohnpei's celebration of International Women's Day.

Using the theme for the day,

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday to the most wonderful Daddy and Papa, Jeff Roligat! Thank you for all you do for us. We hope you enjoy your day! We love you! Greetings coming from Nikki, TJ, Mina, Ricky, and Zion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"My Life, My Responsibility," she called on women to take responsibility for themselves and those within their sphere of influence. Much of the talk stressed the importance of educating today's young women.

"Women played an important role in traditional Pohnpei and they remain just as important today. Women are half of the population, and if they are not fully participating in society, then half of the nation's natural resources are being wasted. When women fully participate in all aspects of society the country will see stronger economic growth," she said.

After her remarks she enjoyed visiting with the local women and watched dances performed by representatives of each of the Women's Groups from around the island. (U.S. Embassy Kolonia)

scale aquaculture ventures, including farming of giant clams, sponges, and coral. In addition, it will train farmers on growing and marketing aquaculture products to reduce their dependency on the diminishing fish stocks and implement four pilot projects to protect shorelines, water quality and coral health.

The second grantee, the College of Micronesia - FSM, will mitigate climate change impacts, including soil degradation and lack of freshwater, through training communities in small-plot intensive farming, livestock integration, community gardening and agroforestry, based on a model successfully

developed in Gargey Village in Yap. It will also work with government partners to develop a Coastal Management Policy for the FSM to better manage risks related to the changing climate.

The Pacific-American Climate Fund is a grant-making facility funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development that assists 12 Pacific island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related "co-benefits," such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food se-

curity, improved health, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

USAID funding is separate from Compact funds. (U.S. Embassy Kolonia)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP15-OVR-062**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2015 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 26, 2015 AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-SUBMISSION ORIENTATION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION NAVY HILL, SAIPAN, ON APRIL 14, 2015 AT 10:00A.M. LOCAL TIME. PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE ORIENTATION.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE DIRECTED TO MS. ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC, OVR DIRECTOR, AND TRANSMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmidir@ovrgov.net NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 20, 2015. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA, M.S., CRC
DIRECTOR, OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

Zoning Enforcement Staff

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Staff. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct field surveys, collect land use information, prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents, write follow-up notices, maintain enforcement database and files, prepare reports, and perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Background experience in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, building codes, or related field, or a minimum of 2 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is \$25,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Mr. Yubert Alepuyo, Zoning Enforcement Officer. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from our office. Send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, FAX: 670-234-9666, US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA, or by Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is **April 3rd, 2015 at 4:30pm.**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Historic Preservation under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs wishes to advise the general public that CNMI Historic Preservation Review Board will hold its annual meeting on March 30-31, 2015. The meeting will be held from 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office on Aging Center's Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park. Interested individuals are invited to attend.

Agenda

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTER**
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Orientation of New Board Members
 - c. Election of Officers
 - d. Adoption of Minutes of September, 2014 Board Meeting
- II. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. HPO Regulations Update
 - b. HPO Historian / Archival Researcher Update
 - c. HPO Staff Archeologist Update
 - d. Manual for State Historic Preservation Review Board Update
 - e. Old Business
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. National Register Nomination for Liyan Kalabera Rock Art Site
 - b. Best Sunshine Project (Imperial Pacific International)
 - c. Honest Profit Project
 - d. Songbird Aviation LLC Project
 - e. Zipline Project (Saipan Adventure Tours)
 - f. Saipan Review and Compliance Update
 - g. Rota Program Update
 - h. Tinian Program Update
 - i. HPO FY2016 Local Budget
 - j. FY2015 HPO Federal Grant Application
- IV. **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**
- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Obama administration as transparent as mud

Two years ago, President Barack Obama claimed that his was “the most transparent administration in history.”

We are reminded of that claim as the American Society of Newspaper Editors marks the 10th anniversary of Sunshine Week, which is set aside each year to remind the American public of the importance of open government and the freedom of information.

Sunshine Week 2015—which coincides with the birthday of James Madison, drafter of the First Amendment—occurs this year as the issue of transparency is front and center in the nation’s capital.

Hillary Clinton last week held a news conference during which she acknowledged—two years after the fact—that she maintained a secret nongovernmental email account during her tenure as Obama’s secretary of state.

While Clinton feigned transparency—declaring that she turned over tens of thousands of emails to the State Department, and suggesting that the emails will be made public at some unspecified time—she glossed over the fact that her staff deleted tens of thousands of emails the former secretary of state deemed strictly personal.

Meanwhile, the Associated Press last week filed a lawsuit against the State Department, attempting to force release of Clinton’s off-book emails after several failed attempts to obtain them under the Freedom of Information Act.

State Department spokesperson Alec Gerlach said that State “does its best to meet its FOIA responsibilities,” but that timely fulfillment of legal requirements under FOIA depends on “the complexity of the request.”

Then there was the lawsuit filed last week by the Competitive Enterprise Institute against the Environmental Protection Agency for “slow-walking” its 2012 FOIA request for the surreptitious emails of then-EPA administrator Lisa Jackson.

Jackson’s email scandal may be even worse than Clinton’s. Indeed, she set up an email account in the name of “Richard Windsor,” a fictitious employee. She used the account to communicate with high-level Obama administration officials, as well as also to secretly coordinate with outside environmental groups.

EPA said CEI’s “Windsor” request required processing of some 120,000 records at a pace of 100 records a month. At that rate, CEI complained, it’s FOIA request will take 100 years to be fulfilled.

Such are the obfuscatory actions of an administration that President Obama claimed to be the most transparent in history. And the American people would be none the wiser were it not for the Fourth Estate, which, as our friends at the AP aptly put it, is the “proxy for the people.”

(c)2015 The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, Calif.)



Generation B2

B2 is for “boom-boom,” a phenomenon I witnessed this past spring holiday in China where they took to public places to light up pyrotechnics to accompany the holiday that also marked the Lunar New Year, ending in glutinous cakes *Yuanxiao* on the 15th day. I call them Generation B2 following the practice of naming age groups by letters.

We have the baby boomer generation in the United States, those born post-Hiroshima A-bomb till the ‘70s, referred to as Generation X. Of late, they became part of the Gray Panthers. Generation Y came around the 1980s to 2000, aka the Millennial Generation; the age group’s b-days up into the millennial turn. Generation Z are of the current digital age from 2000 *anno domini* to the present. Their symbols are the portable laptops, and the texting gizmos that have everyone either talking or nimbly tapping thumbs on smartphones.

China since Deng Xiaoping’s “reform and opening up” created a sub-breed of young executives and entrepreneurs. Their preoccupation is to create as much sound and fury to get China’s economic engines humming, get credit lines to limits that drive them to seek other profitable sources, and to catch U.S. economists’ attention that there is a new kid in the block, not brass but self-reliant, self-sufficient, and self-confident.

I wish the U.S. economy was more decentralized to Main Street but the NASDAQ and the Dow are still the measures of the U.S. dollar’s health, and Main Street U.S. politics have gone the way of tea party sentiments, focused on defending conservative policies in place rather than engaging democratic procedures to create new and innovative populist benefits.

What the new B2 generation in China is doing is creating a new vitality in a land that forsook the expansive possibilities of Admiral Zhang He’s armada and defended the traditions of the ethnic Han between the two rivers of Chiangjiang and the Huanghe that finessed the Great Wall, kept the Mongols out, and promoted a quiet interior mood. A TV six-program series called *River Elegy*, not a Beijing favorite, tells this introspective turn.

The Ming confirmed the self-identity of *Zhongguo*, of the middle realm, but allowed the Persian’s early name for the people of the Qin, *Sina* to the Graeco-Roman world, *China* to the French and Marco Polo, and *China* to the English who lorded it over Victoria Peak until 1997, to be their appellation beyond the borders. With the building of structures in the South China Sea, media has also dubbed China as the region’s “bully.” There is no shortage of pejorative terms to characterize the country or its policies.

One of the frequent questions asked since returning to Saipan has been, “Why are Chinese so universally rude and without man-

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



ners,” spitting their bones and clearing their throats loudly, rapidly consuming food while trashing their tables after each meal, compared to *Riben* cousins who tidy their restaurant dining tables when done, and endlessly utter *arigato* for everything. Stereotyping has taken over.

We concede that historical accounts of China were written by the *illuminati* who served elite interests, full of abstractions and refinements. We’ve come to expect the Chinese to be as delicate as our porcelain. The *hoi polloi* were a colorful background; the coolie hauling the rickshaw and the secretive *tong* that created the myth of the devious Fu Manchu. The image of the Chinese when outside their sovereign territory is a mysterious money maker to be feared or suspected rather than accepted as part of the human race.

The B2 generation has shown impatience with illusory stereotypes, surprisingly not concerned much about what others think, though the matter of “face” is dear to Chinese hearts. There is a self-confidence that borders on arrogance, in contrast to the all-smiling, all-deferring, and all-kowtowing Chinaman of old. Today, ze is just walking tall.

During the 15-day *Xin Tian Kuai Le* celebration, members of the B2 generation who mortgage their souls and paychecks to new housing developments, came out with their wives and young tots to light up boxfuls of sky-blasting pyros. The young guys lit the wicks while wives hang on to children. They were reclaiming an invention of their 7th century ancestors that celebrated life without rue or apology.

On social practice, Generation B2 members follow *inter alia* elders’ habits in two areas: casual trash and spitting on the ground after clearing one’s throat, even for ladies. Lee Kwan Yew (he just died at 91) in the ‘70s dealt strictly with the Sino non-hygienic traits, making Singapore one of the world’s cleanest cities. Deng Xiaoping’s visit to the city state led to the first joint economic venture near Shanghai; am now watching Singapore’s influence on hygiene to take hold on the B2 generation.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sustansian Tradision

Lamegai besis `nai huna setbe este na palabra i “tradision”. Gi mismu tiempu malefayu` ti hu pula, pot para ta komprende, haf` kumeke ilegña `sino sustansiaña.

Layeye, tradision ayu siha na asunto i ta praktikita dia-riamente gi halom familia. Ha inklusu finanague gi famaguon haf` mauleg yan ti kombeni. Primera besis ineyag espirituat gi hechuran dottrina, tinayuyot, ineyag bittun gumai responsablidad, respetu, umekuñgog, man-osge, inafamauleg yan kooperasion gi entalu` membron familia.

Este na chalan fumotma fititme pisun tradision gi familia. Todu pot tod man-gaige mañaina ya siha umesgagaihon este mona piot gi maguaguat famaguon siha.

Lau gaige antigu na tradision natibu gi usun tanu` yan tasi gi finacho`chu` guelu antes. Ginen tinanom niha gi gualu` `nai mapega mantension familia diariu. Pineskan tasi sumaunau kumu mantension lokue`. Poresu na fitme este na pisu gi relasionta yan tanu` natibu. Estague` tutuhon pisun kuttura yan tradision Chamorro.

Gi tod animon mañaina-ta gaige orihinat na chalan finana`guen tradision gi Sainata as Jesukristu. Humuyunig ginen un` sumen popble na familia. Finañagu gi as nanaña as Santa Maria. Si San Jose i pairastroña. Ha tutuhon mamana`gue deste idat dose años.

Sumaga i Sainata yan man-apostoles pot tres años na tiempu. Man-finana`gue ni tinagu` Yuus Tata yan mamana`gue gi sinagogu gi entalu` man-profeta yan professot relihion. Kontodu milagro ha chogue `nai hana` la`la` i man-matai yan magoñg i ti amtiyon siha na chetnot. Gi tod kinalamteña ha apapagat i disipuluña chatniha fan-malelefa ni man-namase` yan mamopble.

`An man-hanau hit man-hosome misa, mafattu ayu na patte i sele-brasion eukaristia `nai hahatsa si pale` i ostia yan kales binu. Estague na patte sumen ma`gas gi misa. Mattu i Saina ha kombibida todus para ta dañe`e yan ta konduse-gue` halom gi espiritu-ta kumu Yu`osta. Un` dañkulu na dinaña familia ni guiya umestablese deste

antigu na tiempu.

Tatnai in` repara na i familia ni dumadaña gi tinayuyot, sentada, lisayu, nobena yan misa sumen magof ha` aniña parehu ha` gi halom katma, linau yan pagyu?

Ganansia ginen tanu` publiku

Yangin gai fuetsa i mafanana`an Open Government Act pues siña ta guadog pot para ta kesoda` haye siha na kabron man-mama` kepble ginen tanu` publiku.

Sige hu akanteha haf` ayu na kontrata i mahuchum ya taya` siña rumikonose. Man-gaige ha` ayu i chumogue este na kontrata. Man-mamomokat diariu lau tat ti fufugu sa` matuñgu ha` na siempre u paguan i malumot `an machuda` huyuñg publikamente. Ni kuantu na kadidiñg mapot mañega sa` oppan mampos pauña gi aire. Siem-pre u anog este na malumot gi ti apmam yan pa`gu.

Bai` chule` este na asunto para i kotte. Yahu lumi`e` matan kada unu ni humasñgon mama` kepble ginen tanu` publiku.

I publiku ha sentuñgu` haf` direchoña. Maseha dignu mamatkilu siempre un` finanu`e sentimientoña piot gi che`chu` inipos na bidan interes petsonat.

Esta mauleg este i casino para futtunan famaguon iya Marianas? Puru che`chu` hasupag na dis-areglu man-huyuñg ginen este na lai.

Nanalau `an ileg niha “indihinau” dispues matalañgan maisa siha `nai masupotta casino. Ti umafagcha` i man-sañgan kontra aksion gi mismu sakudida. Kau magahet na appenas usun rason gi este siha na kritikar asuntun linahyan?

Hinanau Un` Mediku

Antes de u matai un` mediku pot ti amtiyun kanset gofesña, hali`e na i ora mampos kadada`. Tai tiempu chumogue haf` hinassoña mauleg u petsige. Idat 37 años `nai matai.

Sessu ha huganduye hagaña `nai mumalañgu. Ha konsidedera haf`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



mohon futtunaña i patgon? I ha`aniña kulan achaikag kunehu yan haggan. Gigon ha hassu i ora ensegidas maliñgu. `An kalamten para u kuhahulu`, humalom i haggan sa` kontodu fangu`otña puti dimasiau.

Gi uttimu suspiros ti man-gagau ayudu `sino tinayuyot. Ayu ha diseseha i para u hanau, satisfechu gi finaposña antes. Ileglegña na i taihinekog na deskansu esta ti u fan gagau mas `sino menos gi maseha asuntoña. I tinigeña anako`ña ke ha`aniña ni ha pluma para i hagaña. Dumeskansa kontentu.

Todu klasen hinanau guaha. Mafattu gi hinasoghu kau hali`e yan siente i tai hinekog na deskansu yan trankilida na kontentu humanau? Kau listu guihe na momentu gumu`ot kanai Satbadotña `nai mattu para u inesgaihon? Dinanche fino`ña na i deskansoña ti u fan gaugau mas o`menos nesessidat. Magpu` tod! Kontentu ha huchum mataña ya dumeskansa.

■■■

Fumifila i amiguahu gi menan lamasan San Pedro gi trañkan i la-ñget. Hu faisen haf` inañgaiña. Ilegña na tinagu`gue` as San Pedro para u nana`lu i kahitan maches ni ha sake antes. Gi ge`tatte estaba otr u amiguahu ha babatsala `nos kuantos guaka, chiba, manog yan babue ni ha sake gi agrikultura. Piniloghu na para u guaha flumita-da. Dios mihu!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marijuana misunderstandings and medicine

Cannabis has been around for 10,000 years and has been domesticated for the past 6,000 as evidenced by its medical applications in ancient China by Emperor Shen-Nung, aka the Father of Chinese Medicine. Since then, it found its way through the Hindu valleys of Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, spreading across Europe and ultimately landing in America with our founding fathers. Cannabis has three subspecies: Cannabis sativa, Cannabis indica, and Cannabis ruderalis. Although there was a handful of landrace strains at the time and over the years, selective breeding and propagation has resulted in currently over 2,000 strains, mostly hybrids. Cannabis has over 400 chemical compounds with about 85 discovered cannabinoids (THC, CBD, THCV, CBN, CBG, etc. that are compounds that positively affect the human endo-cannabinoid system for our bodies to fight infection and diseases in order to heal and restore balance) and 135 terpenoids (the compounds that give marijuana its scent and taste that have tremendous medical value). Marijuana may be the most favored plant in the world, but it is also the most misunderstood given its complexity and uses.

With current technological advances in science, we are able to properly identify and understand how cannabinoids from cannabis benefit the advances in medicine and its applications. Some people think that any one type of marijuana strain can be used to treat any condition. This is not true given marijuana’s assortment of strains that have compounds to specifically treat specific conditions as evidenced by the patients who have been treated and are currently using it for treatment. The patients themselves have given testimonies on this fact as well as the results shown by their doctors. However, some people do not know that medical marijuana is not only used for pain management as stated by a recent letter to the editor written by a full legalization proponent. In fact there are other diseases that can be treated with medical marijuana such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, to name a few, that have nothing to do with pain. Also, marijuana used as medication does not give the same effect on

the patient as compared to the non-patient who uses it for recreational use. This is because the patient’s body and immune system uses the medication rapidly to treat and heal itself from the illness, thus reducing the high (psychoactive effects) as opposed to a person who is normal and not sick that receives the full effects to get high directly. This is also because the medical marijuana will have a differing ratio in regards to cannabinoids such as THC, the mind altering psychoactive compound, and CBD, the non-psychoactive and medicinal compound. Most patients that are suffering from serious medical conditions benefit from a higher ratio CBD strain versus a THC strain. In fact, although CBD has shown to be very promising in medicine in the past to a select few in the medical field, we now have medical scientists from all over the world that are currently researching and concluding that the non-psychoactive CBD (cannabidiol) compound is found to be the dominating X factor in treating most illnesses compared to the psychoactive THC.

For the sake of argument, if a person were to use the medical marijuana law by pretending to be sick to qualify as a patient only for the sole purpose of receiving marijuana to simply get high, surely he will find out that the high ratio, non-psychoactive CBD strain he has been “prescribed” will have little to no psychoactive effect at all, only resulting in dissatisfaction and a “buzz-kill,” which of course, is a waste of his time and money in going through the entire medical screening process, doctor visits and patient registration payments—all due to his ignorance. Medical marijuana is not recreational marijuana.

And for the sake of medical marijuana’s potential to the economy, according to research conducted by a recreational marijuana proponent, “Recreational marijuana comprised only 36 percent of total sales. This proves that...medical use is still the main purpose and it was visitors to Colorado who pushed the sales as their tourists industry increased revenues by 1.3 billion.” This is evidence that medical marijuana has more importance at 64 percent in total sales than recreational use and even more economic potential as a medical marijuana tourism industry. Colorado is currently seen as not only the marijuana capital of the world, it is also seen as the greatest refugee state for medical marijuana patients of all ages seeking medical marijuana treatment that is limited or restricted in their state or country for their types of illnesses. The CNMI may likely benefit from medical marijuana tourism after all. First, let us take care of our CNMI people who need the treatment as they do not have all the time in the world. Then we can look into the possibility of creating and preserving strains with cannabinoid and terpenoid derivatives of high medical value that will eventually create a “new industry in medicine.” This will be our economic potential if we

take it further. A Guam advocacy group is pushing and getting support from Guam Delegate Bordallo to include Guam and U.S. territories in a U.S. Senate bill being proposed to reclassify marijuana from Schedule 1 to a Schedule 2 category. This means that the federal government will officially acknowledge, by law, marijuana’s value as a medicine. This will eventually allow for all possible opportunities that were restricted in the past to research and development of medical marijuana science and applications.

For those concerned about children, children in fact make up a big percentage of medical marijuana patients, in which marijuana is administered in non-smokeable forms such as oil or a capsule, taken orally, that is rich (high ratio) in CBD (cannabidiol) that does not produce the high such as recreational marijuana. Basically, the children get to be treated without getting high. These children are able to treat their autism, epilepsy, and certain cancers to name a few, which conventional medicines could not do. After all, a child’s laughter is the greatest gift to hear.

Medical marijuana and its uses is not recreational marijuana, and some people should stop trying to ride on the proposed Senate medical marijuana bill just to push for a recreational legalization agenda that has nothing to do with medicine. The topic is not a recreational issue and is highly irrelevant to the medical bill’s intent. *It is a medical issue. It is a compassionate issue. We have a medical problem in the CNMI that we are trying to address by finding and giving solutions to those who are sick and dying. Give us this chance to give the patients a second chance at life.* After all, isn’t this what makes us human?

I encourage all our brothers and sisters to please give your testimonies in support of the Senate medical marijuana bill so we may take care of our sick. Please submit your written testimonies if you do not wish to speak so your statements will be documented and to validate your support for medical marijuana’s acceptance as a medicine in the CNMI. For those who are not afraid to speak, please be heard. Most importantly, if you, a loved one, family member or friend has any knowledge or has been treated with medical marijuana and found it to be beneficial as a treatment, please submit your written or oral testimony, as it is the patients that we are representing and fighting for in the first place. As a compassionate society, we can make a difference in treating illnesses and saving the lives of those who need it most. We can start with medical marijuana. Cannabis saves lives. Thank you and *Biba* Marianas!

Gerry Palacios Hemley
Pro-medical marijuana advocate/representative for patients Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.

▲86° ▼75°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.

▲85° ▼74°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

▲86° ▼74°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.

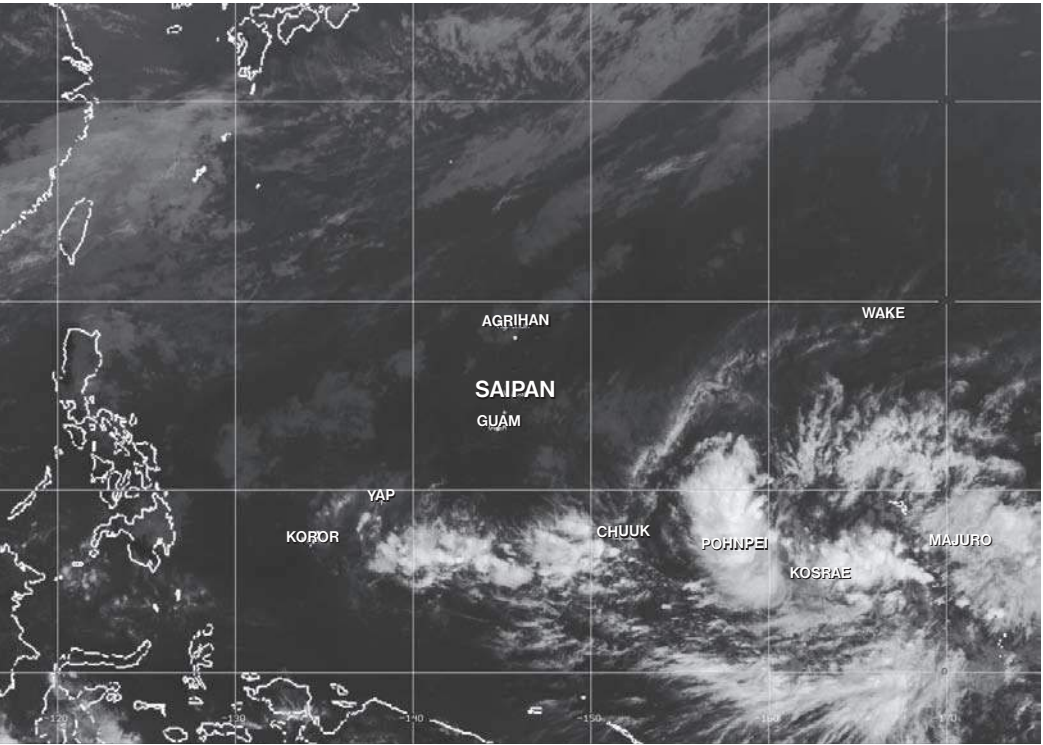
▲86° ▼74°

MONDAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough heads eastward from 3N130E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N140E, then through a more substantial circulation centered just east of Kosrae near 5N164E to beyond the date line at 4N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the Yap circulation are found between 4N and 8N from 136E to 152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the Kosrae circulation are present south of a line from 12N156E to 7N162E to 10N170E to 7N180E. A cold front curves southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to beyond 130E at 16N. Patchy cloudiness and scattered showers are situated along the front and northward to beyond 25N.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Heavy Rain	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲73	▼46
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼74
Melbourne	Windy	▲66	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼44
Osaka	Sunny	▲57	▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲51	▼32
Pusan	Sunny	▲60	▼41
Rome	Rain	▲58	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲65	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲59	▼34
Tokyo	Sunny	▲56	▼39
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲57	▼42

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:16 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
12:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:03 AM	
Friday	11:55 AM	12:10 AM
Saturday	12:46 AM	1:00 AM
Sunday	1:36 PM	1:47 AM
Monday	2:25 PM	2:32 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM			UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN			UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
						UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		
						UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM		
						UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		



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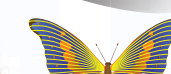


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Business

Crash is Germanwings' first fatal accident since 2002 start

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Germanwings, a low-cost unit of Lufthansa, had recorded no accidents involving passenger deaths until one of its planes crashed in the French Alps on Tuesday, killing all 150 on board.

Aviation accident databases such as aviation-safety.net showed no fatalities since the carrier was founded in 2002.

Germany's Spiegel magazine has reported an incident from 2010, when two pilots nearly passed out as they landed in Cologne. The magazine said contaminated cabin air was suspected.

Meanwhile, Germanwings' parent company, Lufthansa, has not recorded a passenger fatality since 1993, when another Airbus A320 overshot a runway

in Warsaw, Poland, killing one crew and one of 64 passengers.

German media have widely reported an incident on Nov. 5 in which a Lufthansa A321-200 flying from Bilbao, Spain, to Munich, Germany, went into a sudden descent shortly after reaching cruising altitude. The dive was believed connected to faulty data from frozen flight data sensors. The crew was able to switch off a flight computer and regain control.

Germanwings, which has a fleet of around 78 aircraft flying to 130 destinations, plays a key role in Lufthansa's effort to compete against low-cost carriers such as Easyjet and Ryanair.

In January it finished taking over all of Lufthansa's loss-making Europe-only flights, outside the main Lufthansa feeder hubs

for international traffic in Frankfurt and Munich. Lufthansa says Germanwings' lower operating costs helped reduce those losses last year, and that the unit may break even this year.

Lufthansa says better results at Germanwings, along with lower fuel costs, should boost earnings for its airlines division—which also includes Swiss, Eurowings, Lufthansa CityLine, Air Dolomiti and Austrian Airlines—this year.

Germanwings, which is based in Cologne, offers customers choice of three seat categories: Basic, Smart and Best, under the motto: "Reasonably priced but not cheap." The basic level doesn't include checked baggage or food, while Smart offers one free checked bag and Best two, in addition to other extras.

Australia gives conditional support to China-proposed bank

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's prime minister said Wednesday that he supported the proposed development of a Chinese-led Asian regional bank as long as it was transparent and was not run by a single country.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, or AIIB, which is expected to be established by the end of 2015, has raised concerns in Washington that it would compete with established international lenders such as the World Bank.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he was having ongoing conversations with President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe—both close strategic allies—about the proposed bank.

"What's proposed by China and now joined by many other

countries could serve a very useful purpose because we have a massive infrastructure deficit in this country and in our region in the wider world, and a new multilateral bank to fund infrastructure, particularly in our region, could play a really important part for good in the years and decades to come," Abbott told reporters.

"So we're certainly well and truly disposed to joining something which is in fact a genuinely multilateral institution with transparent governance, with clear accountability and with major decisions made by the board," Abbott said.

"That's really, I guess, the fundamental thing for us: would major decisions be made by the board and is it going to be a multilateral institution rather than one that is controlled by

any one country?" he said.

Australia is expected to join the bank as early as this week, with Abbott to explain his government's position before a final decision is made. The Australian newspaper reported on Wednesday.

China's Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said the AIIB would complement rather than compete with established international lenders, the state-owned Xinhua News Agency reported last week.

Like other regional investment vehicles, such as the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the AIIB would not weaken established institutions, but reinforce them and "more vigorously push forward the global economy," Lou was quoted as saying.

VA says it will relax 40-mile rule for private medical care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Responding to pressure from Congress and veterans groups, the Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday it is relaxing a rule that makes it hard for some veterans in rural areas to prove they live at least 40 miles from a VA health site.

The change comes amid complaints from lawmakers and advocates who said the VA's current policy has prevented thousands of veterans from taking advantage of a new law intended to allow veterans in remote areas to gain access to federally paid medical care from local doctors.

The VA said it will now measure the 40-mile trip by driving miles as calculated by Google maps or other sites, rather than as the crow flies, as currently interpreted. The rule change is expected to roughly

double the number of veterans eligible for the VA's new "Choice Card" program. The change could add billions of dollars in annual costs as tens of thousands of new veterans receive private medical care, which typically costs more than traditional care at VA hospitals and clinics.

"We've determined that changing the distance calculation will help ensure more veterans have access to care when and where they want it," Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald said in a statement.

Lawmakers from both parties had pressed for the change in recent months as it became clear that far fewer veterans than expected were taking advantage of a landmark law adopted last year to make it easier for veterans to get pri-

vate care paid for by the government. The law was passed in response to a scandal over long wait times for veterans seeking health care and falsified records covering up the delays.

"Veterans deserve the highest-quality health care and should not be denied this right simply because of where they live," Sens. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said in a joint statement. "We are pleased that Secretary McDonald is responding directly to concerns voiced by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and other members of Congress to ensure those reforms are working for all veterans."

Isakson chairs the Senate veterans panel, while Blumenthal is the panel's top Democrat.

Nation

Officer behind the wheel in fatal wrong-way crash had DUI in '13

The off-duty New Jersey police officer who was behind the wheel during a wrong-way crash that killed another officer and a friend last week in New York City had previously had his driver's license suspended for driving under the influence, an official said Tuesday.

Linden Officer Pedro Abad Jr., had his license suspended for seven months starting in October 2013, said Elyse Coffey, spokeswoman for the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

The suspension stemmed from an accident in Rahway, New Jersey, in February of that year. A judge found he refused to submit to a chemical test and was also driving under the influence.

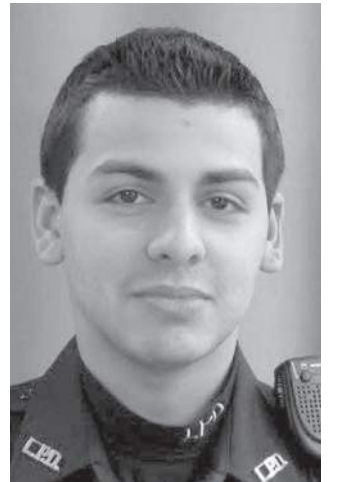
NJ.com posted police dash cam footage online Tuesday night (<http://bit.ly/1HBW0gr>) showing the 2013 arrest. In it,

Abad is seen stumbling, slurring his words, unable to complete a sobriety test and asking for "Officer Webb," an officer on the scene, who he says knows him from "the academy."

His license was restored in March 2014, but he had to use an ignition lock until September 2014. Abad, who was hired as a police officer in 2008, was on the force at the time of the suspension. Linden police Capt. James Samicki said any discipline would be an internal personnel matter and would not be made public.

Abad was among four people in a car early Friday when he drove the wrong way on a Staten Island highway after a night at a New York strip club, crashing head-on into a tractor-trailer.

Hours before the crash, Abad had posted a photo on his Insta-



In this undated photo provided by the Linden, N.J. Police Department, Police Officer Pedro Abad is shown.

gram page of three shot glasses filled with what he identified as "Jack Daniels Fire on the house." Investigators have applied for a warrant to test Abad's blood-alcohol level. (AP)

Cruz wants to scrap IRS, but that's easier said than done

WASHINGTON (AP)—Promising to abolish the Internal Revenue Service is a good talking point for political candidates who are looking to fire up the Republicans' most conservative voters. It's also unlikely to ever happen, no matter how easy folks such as Sen. Ted Cruz like to make it sound.

The Texas Republican is pledging to scrap the tax-collecting agency as he runs for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016. He joins potential contenders and the Republican National Committee itself in the decidedly longshot push to dismantle the unquestionably unpopular IRS.

"Imagine abolishing the IRS," Cruz told college students during his campaign launch Monday. Compared

with America's history of fighting communism, wars and economic calamities, he said, "abolishing the IRS ain't all that tough."

Actually, it could be pretty difficult.

The IRS collects more than \$2.4 trillion every year—money that picks up the tab for the military, Social Security, Medicare, all those projects that lawmakers love to bring home to constituents and so much more. The roughly 90,000-employee agency inside the Treasury Department also enforces the tax code for individual taxpayers and corporations.

It can be hard to imagine abolishing the IRS even if you are a down-with-big-government libertarian.

"If you're going to have

federal taxes, you need an agency to collect them," said Chris Edwards, who leads the libertarian Cato Institute's tax policy studies and was a senior economist with Congress' Joint Economic Committee.

Cruz is not the first candidate to propose eliminating the agency, nor the only one among the likely 2016 contenders.

"It's our time to exercise our right to abolish the IRS and preserve our liberty," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said in a 2013 television ad for the conservative advocacy group Citizens United.

In South Carolina, conservative darling Ben Carson told activists earlier this year that the next president should simplify the tax code and that however it's done, "it needs to eliminate the IRS."

ACROSS THE NATION

Vermont cops tipped on Durst in '12 in student disappearance

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. (AP)—A 2012 tip led investigators to look into whether millionaire real estate heir Robert Durst played a role in the 1971 disappearance and presumed death of a Middlebury College freshman, police said Tuesday. The tip was not connected with the producers of the HBO show "The Normal Heart," which focuses on the life of Durst, who's facing murder charges in the 2000 death of a woman in Los Angeles, Middlebury police Chief Thomas Hanley said. Investigators, until they received that tip, were unaware Durst had been running a health food store where the student had shopped in the col-

lege town about 30 miles south of Burlington, Hanley said. He declined to describe Durst as a suspect in the disappearance of Lynne Schulze, who was from Simsbury, Connecticut. "He is a person that had some proximate connection with a person that is missing here," Hanley said Tuesday. "With some of the other background that we're discovering on this person we're very interested to find out what that connection is and how far we can go with that connection."

Detroit woman arrested after 2 kids found dead in freezer

DETROIT (AP)—A Detroit mother was arrested Tuesday after the frozen bodies of a boy and girl were found in a

deep freezer in the family's home, police said. Court officers found the children's bodies while carrying out an eviction order at the 3-bedroom home in the apartment complex just east of downtown. An autopsy will determine how they died. Police initially reported a woman's body was found in the freezer, but later said it was actually the bodies of the two children in a plastic bag. The boy was about 11 and the girl was 14, said police Chief James Craig who called it a "terrible find." The woman was not in the apartment when the court officers or police arrived. "One of the community members here ... approached our officers and advised that they knew where the parent was located," Craig said.

Asia

230 suspected jihadis prevented from leaving Australia to join IS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Counterterrorism squads have prevented 230 suspected jihadis from departing Australian airports for the Middle East this month, including at least three teenage boys, officials said Wednesday.

Officials had previously announced that two Sydney-born brothers, aged 16 and 17, were intercepted at Sydney International Airport on March 8 attempting to board a flight for Turkey without their parents' knowledge. The siblings were returned to their families and were to be charged.

Within a week, a 17-year-old boy was intercepted at the same airport on suspicion that he was headed for a Middle Eastern battle, Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton said Wednesday.

The boy was also returned to his family, but remains under in-

vestigation, Dutton said.

Since counterterrorism units were attached to eight Australian airports in August, 86,000 travelers have been questioned and 230 people prevented from flying on suspicion that they were headed for the battlefields of Iraq and Syria to fight with groups including Islamic State, Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Parliament.

Experts disagree about why Islamic State had been so effective recruiting in Australia, which is widely regarded as a multicultural success story, with an economy in an enviable 24th straight year of continuous growth.

The London-based International Center for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence reports that between 100 and 250 Australians have joined Sunni militants in Iraq and Syria. The center estimates

that about 100 fighters came from the United States, which has more than 13 times as many people as Australia.

Abbott said his government was investing more on border security and on countering extremism.

"It is absolutely critical that the people of Australia appreciate that the death cult is reaching out to vulnerable and impressionable young people," he said, referring to the Islamic State group. "The death cult is reaching out, seeking effectively to brainwash people online."

Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported this week that the Islamic State group posted on a social media website on March 14 - two days after the latest 17-year-old was intercepted—a step-by-step guide to help would-be jihadis leave Australia and fight with the terror group.

Maldives invites UN to observe ex-president's court appeal

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Maldives government on Tuesday invited the United Nations and other international organizations to observe the former president's appeal of his 13-year jail sentence for ordering a judge's arrest while in office.

The United States, European Union and others have raised concerns about the court process that found Mohamed Nasheed guilty of ordering the arrest of a senior judge when he was in office three years ago. The court said the arrest was akin to abduction under the country's terrorism law.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it has invited the United Nations and the Commonwealth to send representatives to observe the appeal hearing. The invitation did not elaborate, but it comes after U.N. human rights chief Zeid Raad al-Hussein said last week there were "flagrant irregularities" in the case against Nasheed and urged the Maldives government to allow international jurists to observe the appeal.

Nasheed's lawyers have said the hearing had many flaws. They said the judges did not give them time to prepare their defense and rejected defense

witnesses before they heard them and that two judges who heard the case were also prosecution witnesses.

The defense must appeal the sentence by Sunday, but Nasheed's lawyers say the court has still not given them all the documents related to the judgment.

Nasheed in 2008 became the first democratically elected president of this Indian Ocean archipelago state renowned for its luxury resorts. The election ended 30 years of autocratic rule, but he resigned in 2012 amid public anger over the judge's arrest.

In 2013 Nasheed lost the

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thousands protest woman's mob killing in Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Thousands marched through the Afghan capital Tuesday, demanding justice for a woman who was beaten to death by a mob after being falsely accused of burning a Quran. Men and women of all ages carried banners bearing the bloodied face of Farkhunda, a 27-year-old religious scholar killed last week by the mob. Farkhunda, who went by one name like many Afghans, was beaten, run over with a car and burned before her body was thrown into the Kabul River. Organizers of Tuesday's march—the second protest over the brutal slaying in as many days—estimated that up to 3,000 people took part, calling it one of the biggest demonstrations in Kabul's history. Marchers chanted "Justice for Farkhunda!" and "Death to the killers!"

Train hits truck during heavy rain in Thailand; 7 killed

BANGKOK (AP)—A passenger train collided with a pickup truck in heavy rain in northern Thailand on Tuesday, killing seven construction workers in the truck and seriously injuring another, police said. The train, bound for Bangkok, crashed into the truck at an unguarded crossing in Saraphi district shortly after departing from Chiang Mai, police Lt. Col. Kumkaew Suyati said. He said the heavy downpour could have prevented the truck driver from seeing the oncoming train while

crossing the tracks. Kumkaew said five men and two women in the pickup truck were immediately killed and another man was seriously injured. All were members of the ethnic Shan minority, he said. Construction jobs in Thailand are commonly filled by migrant workers or ethnic minorities. Kumkaew said the train was not damaged and was able to continue its trip after a brief stop. Chiang Mai is Thailand's second largest city and a popular tourist destination.

China seeks evidence for possible return of mummy statue

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities are gathering evidence that a statue that was displayed at a mummy exhibit in Hungary belongs to a village in southeastern China, ahead of possible diplomatic talks to retrieve the treasure, an official said Tuesday. The investigation followed a weekend report by the official Xinhua News Agency that the mummy statue featured at the MummyWorld Exhibition in Budapest was stolen from Yangchun village in Fujian province in 1995. Yu Shengfu, an official at a cultural heritage bureau in Fujian, said that the conclusion is preliminary and that Chinese authorities are gathering more proof, including photos, to show that the piece owned by a private Dutch collector belongs to the Chinese village. The mummy-containing statue has been pulled from the exhibit, which runs through May 17 in Budapest.

World

Plane crash kills 150 people in French Alps; black box found

SEYNE-LES-ALPES, France (AP)—A black box recovered from the scene and pulverized pieces of debris strewn across Alpine mountainsides held clues to what caused a German jetliner to take an unexplained eight-minute dive Tuesday midway through a flight from Spain to Germany, apparently killing all 150 people on board.

The victims included two babies, two opera singers and 16 German high school students and their teachers returning from an exchange trip to Spain. It was the deadliest crash in France in decades.

The Airbus A320 operated by Germanwings, a budget subsidiary of Lufthansa, was less than an hour from landing in Duesseldorf on a flight from Barcelona when it unexpectedly went into a rapid descent. The pilots sent out no distress call and had lost radio contact with their control center, France's aviation authority said, deepening the mystery.

While investigators searched through debris from Flight 9525 on steep and desolate slopes, families across Europe reeled with shock and grief. Sobbing relatives at both airports were led away by airport workers and crisis counselors.

"The site is a picture of horror. The grief of the families and friends is immeasurable," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after being flown over the crash scene. "We must now stand together. We are united in our great grief."

It took investigators hours to



reach the site, led by mountain guides to the craggy ravine in the southern French Alps, not far from the Italian border and the French Riviera.

Video shot from a helicopter and aired by BFM TV showed rescuers walking in the crevices of a rocky mountainside scattered with plane parts. Photos of the crash site showed white flecks of debris across a mountain and larger airplane body sections with windows. A helicopter crew that landed briefly in the area saw no signs of life, French officials said.

"Everything is pulverized. The largest pieces of debris are the size of a small car. No one can access the site from the ground," Gilbert Sauvan, president of the general council, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, told The Associated Press.

"This is pretty much the worst thing you can imagine," said Bodo Klimpel, mayor of the German town of Haltern, rent with sorrow after losing 16 tenth graders and their two teachers.

The White House and the airline chief said there was no sign that terrorism was involved, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged reporters not to speculate on the cause.

"We still don't know much beyond the bare information on the flight, and there should be no speculation on the cause of the crash," she said in Berlin. "All that will be investigated thoroughly."

Lufthansa Vice President Heike Birlenbach told reporters in Barcelona that for now "we say it is an accident."

SIDEBAR

16 German high school students among plane crash victims

HALTERN, Germany (AP)—A stunned German town mourned 16 students who went down aboard Germanwings Flight 9525 on their way home Tuesday from a Spanish exchange, while the opera world grieved for two singers who were returning from performing in Barcelona—one of them with her baby.

"This is surely the blackest day in the history of our town," a visibly shaken Mayor Bodo Klimpel said after the western town of Haltern was shocked by news that 16 students from the local high school and two teachers had been on the plane. They had just spent a week in Spain.

Some hugged, cried and laid flowers in front of the Joseph Koenig High School, where the 10th graders had studied, and lit candles on its

steps. "This is pretty much the worst thing you can imagine," Klimpel said at a hastily called news conference.

An announcement was made to students Tuesday lunchtime that "that we were all free now but we shouldn't be happy," said Christopher Schweigmann, 16, a 10th-grade student who said he lost two good friends. Students went to a service Tuesday evening, and "everyone was in tears in the church," he said.

"It's impossible to believe that they all won't be there anymore in the coming days," he said.

Crisis counselors were at the school soon after the crash.

"I think many haven't really grasped what happened, and I think the grief will come

a bit later for many," counselor Ingo Janzen said.

"The town is totally silent, nothing is happening anymore in town, everyone is like petrified," said resident Gerd Schwarz, 64.

The town of 38,000 lies about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of the plane's destination, Duesseldorf.

Officials confirmed that the school group was among the 150 people on board the plane. Among the victims were also two opera singers, business travelers en route to a trade fair in Cologne and two babies.

A total of 67 Germans, many Spaniards, two Australians, and one person each from the Netherlands, Turkey, and Denmark were among the victims, according to their respective governments.

Focus

AP investigation: Are slaves catching the fish you buy?

By ROBIN MCDOWELL, MARGIE MASON and MARTHA MENDOZA

Associated Press

BENJINA, Indonesia (AP)—The Burmese slaves sat on the floor and stared through the rusty bars of their locked cage, hidden on a tiny tropical island thousands of miles from home.

Just a few yards away, other workers loaded cargo ships with slave-caught seafood that clouds the supply networks of major supermarkets, restaurants and even pet stores in the United States.

Here, in the Indonesian island village of Benjina and the surrounding waters, hundreds of trapped men represent one of the most desperate links crisscrossing between companies and countries in the seafood industry. This intricate web of connections separates the fish we eat from the men who catch it, and obscures a brutal truth: Your seafood may come from slaves.

The men The Associated Press spoke to on Benjina were mostly from Myanmar, also known as Burma, one of the poorest countries in the world. They were brought to Indonesia through Thailand and forced to fish. Their catch was shipped back to Thailand, and then entered the global commerce stream.

Tainted fish can wind up in the supply chains of some of America's major grocery stores, such as Kroger, Albertsons and Safeway; the nation's largest retailer, Wal-Mart; and the biggest food distributor, Sysco. It can find its way into the supply chains of some of the most popular brands of canned pet food, including Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. It can turn up as calamari at fine dining restaurants, as imitation crab in a California sushi roll or as packages of frozen snapper relabeled with store brands that land on our dinner tables.

In a year-long investigation, the AP interviewed more than 40 current and former slaves in Benjina. The AP documented the journey of a single large shipment of slave-caught seafood from the Indonesian village, including squid, snapper, grouper and shrimp, and tracked it by satellite to a gritty Thai harbor. Upon its arrival, AP journalists followed trucks that loaded and drove the seafood over four nights to dozens of factories, cold storage plants and the country's biggest fish market.

Some fishermen, risking their lives, begged the reporters for help.

"I want to go home. We all do," one Burmese slave called out over the side of his boat, a cry repeated by many men. "Our parents haven't heard from us for a long time, I'm sure they think we are dead."

Their catch mixes in with other fish at numerous sites in Thailand, including processing plants. U.S. Customs records show that several of those Thai factories ship to America. They



In this Thursday, Nov. 27, 2014 image from video, workers from Myanmar load fish onto a Thai-flagged cargo ship in Benjina, Indonesia.

AP

also ship to Europe and Asia, but the AP traced shipments to the U.S., where trade records are public.

The major corporations identified by AP declined interviews but issued statements that strongly condemned labor abuses; many described their work with human rights groups to hold subcontractors accountable.

National Fisheries Institute spokesman Gavin Gibbons, speaking on behalf of 300 U.S. seafood firms that make up 75 percent of the industry, said his members are troubled by the findings.

"It's not only disturbing, it's disheartening because our companies have zero tolerance for labor abuses," he said. "These type of things flourish in the shadows."

The slaves interviewed by the AP described 20- to 22-hour shifts and unclean drinking water. Almost all said they were kicked, beaten or whipped with toxic stingray tails if they complained or tried to rest. They were paid little or nothing.

Runaway Hlaing Min said many died at sea.

"If Americans and Europeans are eating this fish, they should remember us. There must be a mountain of bones under the sea," he said. "The bones of the people could be an island, it's that many."

I want to go home. We all do. Our parents haven't heard from us for a long time, I'm sure they think we are dead.

The small harbor in the village is occupied by Pusaka Benjina Resources, whose five-story office compound includes the cage with the slaves. The company is the only fishing operation on Benjina officially registered in Indonesia, and is listed as the owner of more than 90 trawlers. However, the captains are Thai, and the Indonesian government is reviewing to see if the boats are really Thai-owned. Pusaka Benjina did not respond to phone calls and a letter, and did not speak to a reporter who waited for two hours in the company's Jakarta office.

At the Benjina port, the AP interviewed slaves from a dozen fishing vessels offloading their catch into a large refrigerated cargo ship, the Silver Sea Line.

The ship belonged to the Silver Sea Reefer Co., which is registered in Thailand and has at least nine refrigerated cargo boats. The company said it is not involved with the fishermen.

"We only carry the shipment and we are hired in general by clients," said company owner Panya Luangsomboon. "We're separated from the fishing boats."

The AP followed that ship, using satellite tracking over 15 days to Samut Sakhon, Thailand, and journalists watched as workers packed the seafood over four nights onto more than 150 trucks, following deliveries to factories around the city.

Inside those plants, representatives told AP journalists that they sold seafood to other Thai processors and distributors. U.S. Customs bills of lading identify specific shipments from those plants to American firms, including well-known brand names.

For example, one truck bore the name and bird logo of Kingfisher Holdings Ltd., which supplies frozen and canned seafood around the world. Another truck went to Mahachai Marine Foods

Co., a cold storage business that also supplies Kingfisher, according to Kawin Ngernanek, whose family runs it.

"Yes, yes, yes, yes," said Kawin, who also serves as spokesman for the Thai Overseas Fisheries Association. "Kingfisher buys several types of products."

When later asked about abusive labor practices, Kawin was not available. Instead, Mahachai Marine Foods manager Narongdet Prasertsri responded: "I have no idea about it at all." Kingfisher did not answer repeated requests for comment.

Every month, Kingfisher and its subsidiary KF Foods Ltd. sends about 100 metric tons of seafood from Thailand to America, according to U.S. Customs records. These shipments have gone to Stavis Seafoods, a Boston-based Sysco supplier, and other distributors.

"The truth is, these are the kind of things that keep you up at night," said CEO Richard Stavis, who grandfather started the company. He said his business visits international processors, requires notarized certification of legal practices and uses third-party audits.

"There are companies like ours that care and are working as hard as they can," he said.

A similar pattern repeats itself with other companies and

shipments.

The AP followed another truck to Niwat Co., where part owner Prasert Luangsomboon said the company sells to Thai Union Manufacturing. Weeks later, when confronted about forced labor in their supply chain, Niwat referred several requests for comment to Luangsomboon, who could not be reached for further comment.

Thai Union Manufacturing Co. is a subsidiary of Thai Union Frozen Products PCL., Thailand's largest seafood corporation, with \$3.5 billion in annual sales. This parent company, known simply as Thai Union, owns Chicken of the Sea and is buying Bumble Bee, although the AP did not observe any tuna fisheries.

Thai Union says its direct clients include Wal-Mart, and ships thousands of cans of cat food to the U.S. every month, including household brands like Fancy Feast, Meow Mix and Iams. These end up on shelves of major grocery chains, such as Kroger, Safeway and Albertsons, as well as pet stores. Again, however, it's impossible to tell if a particular can of cat food might have slave-caught seafood.

Thai Union said it takes multiple stakeholders to eradicate labor abuses.

"We all have to admit that it is difficult to ensure the Thai seafood industry's supply chain is 100 percent clean," Thai Union CEO Thiraphong Chansiri said in an emailed statement.

The enslaved fishermen on Benjina had no idea where the fish went, only that it was too valuable for them to eat. Their desperation was palpable.

A crude cemetery holds more than 60 graves strangled by tall grasses and jungle vines. The small wooden markers are neatly labeled, some with the falsified names of slaves and boats. Only their friends remember where they were laid to rest.

In the past, former slave Hla Phyto said, supervisors on ships simply tossed bodies into the sea to be devoured by sharks. But after authorities and companies started demanding that every man be accounted for on the roster upon return, captains began stowing corpses alongside the fish in ship freezers until they arrived back in Benjina.

"I'm starting to feel like I will be in Indonesia forever," said Phyto, wiping a tear away. "I remember thinking when I was digging, the only thing that awaits us here is death."

Editor's Note: The Associated Press notified the International Organization for Migration about men in this story, who were then moved out of Benjina by police for their safety. Hundreds of slaves remain on the island, and five other men were in the cage this week.

Environment

Coral restoration will take \$250 million, 4 centuries

By DAVID FLESHLER
SUN SENTINEL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Here's the estimated price for restoring two declining coral species found in South Florida and the Caribbean: About \$250 million.

How long will it take? 400 years or so (assuming all goes smoothly).

No one expected it would be easy to restore elkhorn and staghorn corals, the once-abundant, reef-building species that since the 1970s have vanished from almost all of their old range. A recovery plan just released by the National Marine Fisheries Service says the biggest current threat is climate change, a problem beyond its power to solve.

Assuming the oceans continue to warm, the plan recommends about two dozen steps to help these species survive. Among them: Growing them in nurseries for transplantation to the ocean floor, tightening fishing regulations, identifying resilient genetic strains, improving sewage treatment and reducing the amount of fertilizer and other pollutants washing into the ocean.

"While the climate threats are the most significant, reducing the local threats will provide a buffer for the species to be able

to deal with the climate threats," said Jennifer Moore, a fisheries service biologist.

Often compared to tropical rain forests, coral reefs support a vast range of marine life, from sea anemones and sponges to angelfish and lemon sharks. They are among South Florida's major tourist attractions, drawing visitors for fishing, diving and snorkeling, accounting for about \$483 million in national recreation spending.

Elkhorn and staghorn corals, which can be found in the reefs that stretch from the Florida Keys through Palm Beach County, have been declining for at least 40 years from a variety of causes.

An outbreak of white-band disease wiped out about 80 percent of them in the early 1980s, Moore said. Rising ocean temperatures have made them more vulnerable to bleaching, in which they expel the colorful algae on which they depend for energy.

"Climate change is beginning to creep up in terms of causes," Moore said. "The indications are that bleaching events will become more frequent and more severe due to climate change."

The plan puts a price tag of \$254,540,000 for recovery but admits it is "an extreme underestimate," considering what other countries in the Caribbean also would have to spend.

Among the costs: Basic research on their genetics, physi-

ology and resistance to disease (\$9.6 million), developing a program to monitor them (\$1 million per year), increasing land-based nurseries (\$10 million per year), restocking sea urchins that clear algae from corals (\$5 million) and improving sewage treatment in the U.S. and Caribbean (\$10 million to \$20 million).

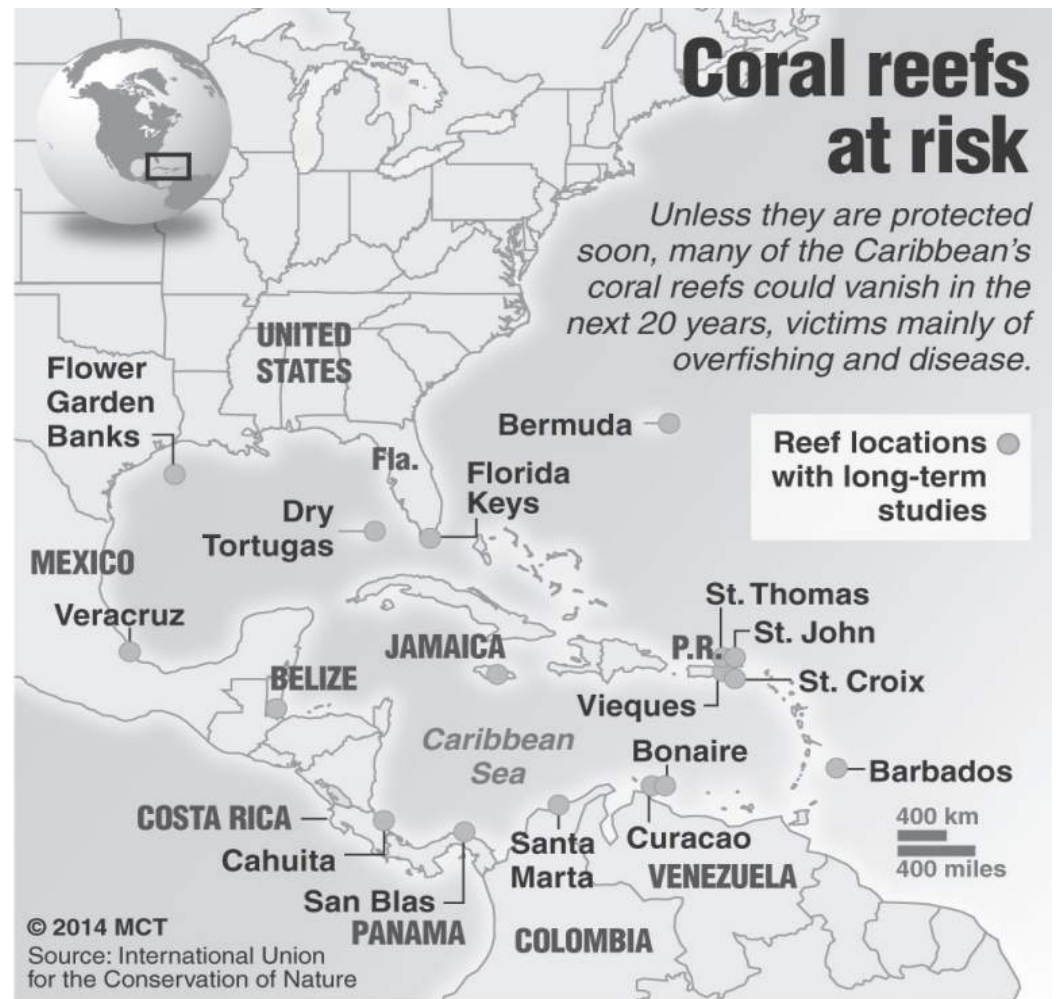
No one expects this amount of money to be spent. The federal government this year has budgeted \$500,000 to \$800,000 for protecting corals but Moore said not all the money will come from the federal government.

Coral grows extremely slowly and some of the living coral reef structures off the southeast Florida coast are hundreds of years old.

"The recovery team estimated that it will take approximately 400 years to achieve recovery based on the significant mitigative actions identified in this plan," the plan states.

The Center for Biological Diversity, which originally petitioned the federal government to protect the corals, praised the proposal.

"The recovery plan makes it clear that the primary threat to elkhorn and staghorn is climate change and ocean warming and ocean acidification," said Shaye Wolf, climate science director of the Arizona-based environmental group. "I think the strategy should be: No. 1, that the U.S.



needs to take significant action to slow climate change, and No. 2, we need to reduce significant threats to corals while we work on the climate problem."

The next step for the fisheries service will be to set up implementation teams of governmental and environmental represen-

tatives, outside scientists and others with knowledge of the reefs. These teams, expected to be in place by September, should also be a means of leveraging money from other agencies, state and local governments and non-profits, Moore said.

Meanwhile, the federal gov-

ernment is working on regulations to protect another 20 coral species found in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Of these, five are found in South Florida, including pillar coral, rough cactus coral, lobed star coral, mountainous star coral and boulder star coral.

Pope: Earth's water must be protected, available to everyone

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis is encouraging the world to ensure its water supplies are protected and available to all.

Francis noted the United Nations was marking Sunday as an occasion to draw attention to water's importance.

He quoted St. Francis of Assisi, who inspired his choice of name as pope, in praising water for its usefulness and purity.

Francis intends to detail his views on the environment soon in an encyclical, a Vatican position paper reserved for important matters.

Speaking to the public in St. Peter's Square, the pope called water "the most essential element for life" and said "humanity's future depends on our ability to care for it and share it."

He encouraged governments to ensure that water supplies are protected and accessible to all.

Experts warn African elephant numbers likely to decline

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A high rate of elephant poaching in parts of Africa was unchanged in 2014 compared to the previous year, meaning that a continued decline in elephant numbers is likely, according to a study released

Monday at a conservation meeting in Botswana.

A report by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which is known as CITES and regulates wildlife trade, said poaching rates of elephants in areas that

are being monitored still exceed their natural birth rates.

Conservationists say tens of thousands of elephants have been killed in Africa in recent years as demand for ivory in Asia, particularly China, increases. Past estimates of Af-

rica's elephant population have ranged from 420,000 to 650,000.

The poaching situation appears to have deteriorated in Central and West Africa, though there are "encouraging signals" in parts of East Africa where

overall poaching levels have declined, said John Scanlon, secretary-general of CITES.

The study was presented at an international conference on the threat to elephants that was held in the tourist town of Kasane in northern Botswana. A similar meeting was held in 2013 in Botswana's capital, Gaborone.

More than 20,000 elephants are being killed annually despite some progress in anti-poaching efforts and the increasing awareness of governments, said Lamine Sebogo, a representative from the World Wildlife Fund who attended the meeting in Kasane.

"Forest elephants in Central Africa are the victims of most of the poaching and we risk losing this unique species if efforts are not stepped up further, all along the ivory trafficking chain," Sebogo said.



AP
A pile of 6.1 tons of illegal elephant tusks, ivory trinkets, carvings and various forms of jewelry is burned on a wooden pyre that government officials set alight to discourage poaching and the ivory trade, in the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Friday, March 20, 2015.

Life & Style

Ferrell, Hart defend 'Get Hard' after a jolt of criticism

NEW YORK (AP)—In the annals of film festival flops—from unexpected boos to red-carpet gaffes—the premiere of the Will Ferrell, Kevin Hart comedy “Get Hard” will go down as a doozy.

After the film premiered last week at the South By Southwest Film Festival, during a Q&A with director Etan Cohen, an audience member voiced not so much a question as a harsh judgment. “This film seems racist,” he said, using an expletive. Another audience member also asked if the film, about a hedge fund manager (Ferrell) who witlessly hires a law-abiding acquaintance (Hart) to prepare him for maximum security prison after being sentenced for fraud, was perpetuating stereotypes.

That sound you might have heard emanating from Austin was the loud cursing of marketing executives for the film, which opens Friday.

Though film festival Q&As are often filled with questionable observations, these atypically blunt rebukes received outsized attention, drawing headlines from *The Los Angeles Times* and others. The damage continued with early reviews that also questioned the movie’s handling of homosexuality in various scenes.

Much of the film’s comedy rests on the Ferrell character’s fears of being raped in prison,



and among his preparations is an attempt to have oral sex with a gay man in a bathroom stall. A critic for *The Guardian* wrote that future viewers “will be astonished that such a negative portrayal of homosexuality persisted in the mainstream in 2015.” *Variety* wrote that the film was “undone by some of the ugliest gay-panic humor to befoul a studio release in recent memory.”

After initially seeking to avoid the controversy (Cohen, Ferrell and Hart cancelled interviews with The Associated Press before Ferrell and Hart rescheduled them), the film’s stars and producers are vigorously defending their comedy as not a representation of stereotypes but a satire of them.

“Any time you’re going to do an R-rated comedy, you’re going to offend someone,” said Ferrell in an interview alongside Hart. He continued: “But that’s kind of what we do. We provoke. We prod. We also show a mirror to what’s already existing out there. We’re playing fictitious characters who are articulating some of the attitudes and misconceptions that already exist.”

“Get Hard” was written by Cohen along with Jay Martel and Ian Roberts, writing-producers from the sketch comedy show “Key and Peele.” This is Cohen’s directorial debut after penning screenplays to films like “Idiocracy” and “Tropic Thunder,” a film that memorably flirted with racially sensi-

tive territory in Robert Downey Jr.’s lampoon, in black face, of a Method actor run amok.

In many ways, the comedy of “Get Hard” works similarly. Just as the humor of Downey’s actor wasn’t in his favor but about his own self-obsessive, racist delusions, Ferrell’s character is

In this image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., Kevin Hart, right, and Will Ferrell appear in a scene from “Get Hard.”

AP

a parody of the narrow perspective of the elitist one percent. He hires Hart’s carwash owner and family man under the mistaken presumption that he’s been to prison, that he’s “hard.”

“You’re looking at two characters that judged each other by their cover,” said Hart. “And after peeling off some of the layers to their onion, they realize that, ‘Oh my God, this isn’t the person I thought it was from the jump. It’s a completely different person.’ And that road to friendship ensues.”

“Get Hard” was conceived as a way to pair Hart and Ferrell, two of the most popular and bankable stars in comedy. Whether the film succeeds on its own terms or not, it’s an attempt (one generally uncommon in wide-release studio films) to comment on contemporary issues of inequality and race within the context of a broad, often crude comedy.

Adam McKay, Ferrell’s longtime collaborator and a producer of “Get Hard,” said any backlash has been overinflated by “lazy journalism.”

“Given that we’re a country with runaway income inequality, more people in jail than any other country, this is what people are crowing about? Trying to in a funny way deal with these issues?” said McKay in a phone interview with fellow producer Chris Henchy. “It really kind of got me mad. It’s just cheap is what it is.”

McKay said the film was fashioned as “a silly, filthy comedy” on the outside, but a satire of income inequality underneath. Seeing the film as racist, he says, is “kind of ridiculous and disheartening,” since its intention is to parody those who live in bubbles of wealth and prejudice. To claims of homophobia he protested: “Any individual going to maximum security prison would be afraid of violence and sexual assault. To equate that with homosexuality is ridiculous.”

Stiller, Baumbach unite again in ‘While We’re Young’

NEW YORK (AP)—In Noah Baumbach’s “Greenberg,” there’s a scene where Ben Stiller, playing a prickly, neurotic 40-year-old, gazes fearfully at teenage kids around him at a Los Angeles party. “You’re so sincere and interested in things,” he sneers. “I hope I die before meeting any of you at a job interview.”

In Baumbach’s latest film, “While We’re Young,” that nightmare has come to pass. The backdrop for generational divide is just as much social as professional, but now Stiller is starring as half of a 40-something married couple (Naomi Watts is his wife) who befriend a much younger hipster couple (Adam Driver and Amanda Seyfried).

Stiller’s character, a documentary filmmaker who’s spent nearly a decade making the same film, becomes a mentor to Driver’s aspiring documentarian. While their age-appropriate friends are having kids, Stiller and Watts’ Manhattan couple take hip-hop classes, bike in Brooklyn, don questionable hats and generally try to pretend they’re still 25.

The two movies, “Greenberg”

and “While We’re Young,” have established Baumbach and Stiller as a potent pairing. Stiller’s performances have been called among his best, and the films have contributed to a vibrant midlife period for Baumbach, who in between made the black-and-white 20-something comedy “Frances Ha” with his girlfriend Greta Gerwig.

“In both cases, thinking of Ben doing these things just made a lot of sense to me,” Baumbach said in a recent interview with Stiller. “If we keep making movies together, then I guess we can just finish off a life.”

“Go off into the sunset!” chimes Stiller.

“I wish I had gotten to Ben when he was 14,” adds Baumbach, imagining their version of Truffaut’s Antoine Doinel series. “I could have given you some gold,” Stiller adds, cackling. “You should check out my head shot when I was 14.”

It’s fitting that the two have come together to chart the sometimes painful acceptance of adulthood. Back in the 1990s, the first film each made—Stiller’s “Reality Bites,” Baum-

bach’s “Kicking and Screaming”—were indelible portraits of what became known as Generation X. “Kicking and Screaming” came out shortly after the sensation of “Reality Bites,” which Baumbach cheerfully recalls, beat him to the generation-defining punch.

The two didn’t know each other until years later, “but we might as well have,” says Baumbach.

“We grew up in New York, obviously, with creative parents,” says Baumbach. “That and ‘SCTV.’”

They nearly crossed paths in the late ’90s when Stiller’s brother-in-law was Baumbach’s assistant, but they only became acquainted when Stiller reached out to Baumbach after seeing his “The Squid and the Whale.”

Baumbach, knowing he wanted to work with Stiller again after 2010’s “Greenberg,” wrote the lead in “While We’re Young” specifically for him: “I wanted to write a comedy about a marriage and having Ben’s voice, or at least my interpretation of Ben’s voice in my head was very helpful.”

Teen asked to adapt ‘The Adventures of Tom Sawyer’ for stage

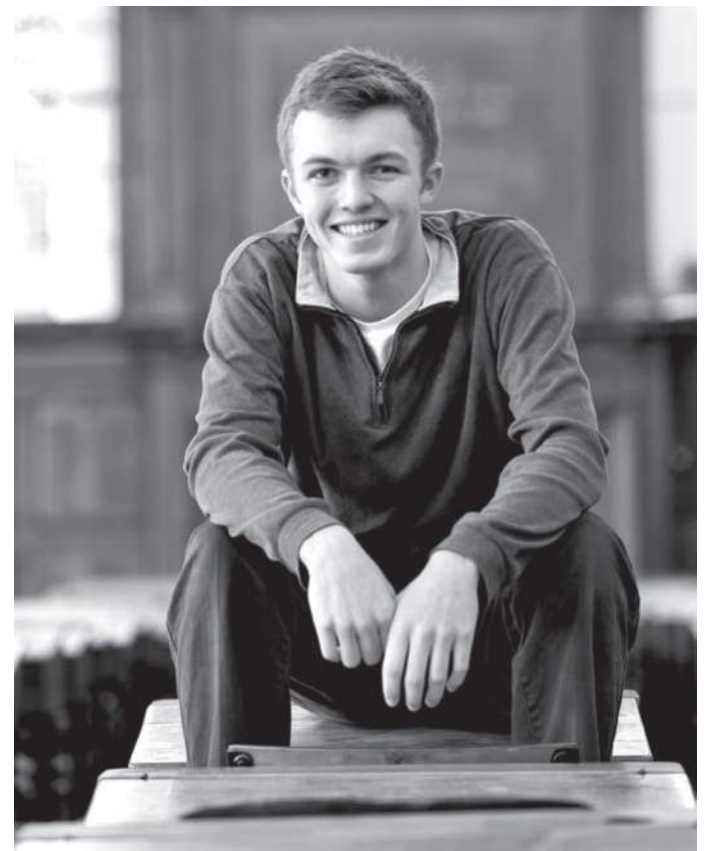
NEW YORK (AP)—A new stage adaptation of “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” has been commissioned from an up-and-coming playwright not much older than Sawyer was in the landmark book.

The Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, has picked 17-year-old Noah Altshuler to go back to the famous novel and build a play from it this summer after visiting key Twain locations like Hannibal, Missouri, and Elmira, New York.

“It’s an effort, above all, to bring the quintessential American boy to a new generation. His importance is greater than it’s ever been,” said Altshuler. “I’ve found Twain to be so relatable and so important in my life that it’s a shame to think that others don’t have that same relationship merely because of a lack of access or interest.”

Altshuler, who was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts and admits to being a president James Garfield junkie, has already had his play “Making the Move” featured at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and licensed by more than 50 schools across the country. He hopes to return to the festival this year with a sequel.

Altshuler’s play will be adapted primarily from “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,” but it will also include elements drawn from “Tom Sawyer Abroad” and “Tom Sawyer, Detective.” The playwright, named a playwright-



AP

In this Sept. 21, 2014 photo released by Ellen Harasimowicz, Noah Altshuler poses in Groton, Mass.

in-residence, will have access to Twain’s archives.

The tale of Sawyer—in which he whitewashes a fence, escapes to an island and tries to live without adults, witnesses a murder, searches for treasure, and gets lost in caves—has been made into films, TV movies, a ballet and stage musicals.

Altshuler said he would try to steer clear of other interpretations so he could create a direct and personal relationship with the original text. He said he hopes to capture the energy

and excitement of someone living the life of Tom Sawyer.

“What I want to bring out and preserve and bring to a new generation is the triumphs and disappointments and the emotions and realities on a deeper level. I want to make those pieces modern and relevant,” Altshuler said. “I want to take the deep truths and separate them from the surface facts and create a piece that speaks not to the world of Twain but to the heart of Twain.”

Fox's Bill O'Reilly says higher ratings prove he's trusted

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly says he thinks television viewers trust him despite accusations he stretched the truth when he was a young reporter covering straight news.

He said on the CBS "Late Show" on Tuesday the controversy "worked out OK" for him and he "got even more viewers." He said his ratings have gone up by 20 percent.

"Late Show" host David Let-

terman, who's retiring soon, teased O'Reilly, asking whether his ratings went up "when people think you were making stuff up?" When Letterman asked O'Reilly if he ever fibbed on the air, O'Reilly replied, "Not that I know of."

O'Reilly has been accused by liberal media watchdogs of false-



O'Reilly

ly claiming he was in a "war zone" while reporting from Argentina during the Falklands War in the 1980s when he was far from the front. O'Reilly covered an anti-government demonstration and has defended his characterization. He also has disputed accusations related to his work in El Salvador and in Florida.

O'Reilly pointed to his years of strong ratings at Fox and said of his viewers, "I think they trust me, and I'm glad they do."

He also said NBC nightly news anchor Brian Williams, suspended for six months for making misleading statements about his coverage of the Iraq War, eventually should be reinstated. He said Williams was a victim of the sport "let's destroy the famous person."

Fox announces brief return of 'The X-Files'



In this Oct. 12, 2013 file photo, actors Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny attend "The Truth Is Here: David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson on The X-Files" at The Paley Center for Media, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Agents Mulder and Scully are making their television return.

Fox announced Tuesday that it will air a six-episode run of new episodes of "The X-Files"

that will begin this summer. Stars David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson will reprise their roles as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully.

The show's creator, Chris Cart-

er, said that he considers the show's absence like a "13-year commercial break." Carter said that "the good news is the world has only gotten that much stranger."

"The X-Files" premiered on Fox in September 1993 and ran for nine seasons. Fox wasn't releasing further details about the revived show.

Taraji P. Henson says her son was racially profiled at USC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Taraji P. Henson says her 20-year-old son is transferring to Howard University after being racially profiled by police at the University of Southern California.

The "Empire" star made the comments in the latest issue of Uptown magazine, which features her on the cover.

Henson said her son, Marcel, was stopped by police on the Los Angeles campus "for having his hands in his pockets." She said he now plans to attend her alma mater, the his-

torically black Howard University in Washington, D.C.

The chief of USC's Department of Public Safety said in a statement Tuesday that any allegation of unequal treatment by university officers would trigger an investigation. Chief John Thomas said he was racially profiled as a teenager and was "deeply disturbed" to learn that Henson's son felt profiled because of his race.

A publicist for Henson asked for privacy for her son Tuesday and said there would be no further comment.



In this Thursday, March 12, 2015 file photo, Taraji P. Henson attends the LA Academy Screening of "Empire" at the Theater at the Ace Hotel, in Los Angeles.

Taylor Swift, George Strait, lots more to get special ACM Honors

NEW YORK (AP)—Even though Taylor Swift has officially gone pop, she still has a special place with the Academy of Country Music, which will be giving her and superstars like Kenny Chesney, George Strait, Miranda Lambert and Garth Brooks a special honor at next month's ACM Awards.

The Academy is handing out a 50th Anniversary Milestone Award to celebrate seven of their biggest winners, also including Reba McEntire and Brooks & Dunn. The honorees will be given a trophy specially designed by jeweler David Yurman, complete with black diamonds, sterling silver and white gold.

Garth Brooks has gotten the most ACM Entertainer of the Year trophies with six; Chesney has four and also got the first fan-voted Entertainer of the Year. Lambert has 18 ACM Awards, making her the most awarded solo female artist; McEntire has the most female vocalist of the year trophies with seven; Strait has won 21 ACMs over four consecutive decades; Swift was the youngest Entertainer of the Year winner at 21; and Brooks & Dunn have the most ACMs in total with 27.

The Milestone Awards will be presented April 19 at the 50th annual ACMs, to be held at AT&T Stadium outside of Dallas and broadcast live on CBS.

Fox sues record label in dispute over 'Empire' title

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fox has asked a federal judge to issue an order allowing the network to continue to use "Empire" as the title of its newest hit show after a record label demanded millions of dollars over use of the word.

Twentieth Century Fox Television filed the lawsuit Monday in Los Angeles seeking a judge's order that the network can continue to use the title "Empire" for its series starring Oscar nominee Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson.

The lawsuit states the San Francisco-based record label Empire Distribution Inc., has sent letters demanding as much as \$8 million from Fox. Empire Distribution claims the show's title is creating confusion with its artists and the network should either pay or change the show's title.

"It isn't just a fictional show," Empire Distribution CEO Ghazi Shami wrote in a statement released Tuesday. "They are functioning as a record label in the real world."

The lawsuit states Empire Distribution has a pending trademark application for use of the word, but that an initial filing was reject-

ed. The trademark application was filed after the show premiered in January, the lawsuit states.

"Empire" has become a hit for Fox, with its ratings rising each week and nearly 17 million viewers tuning in for the show's recent Season One finale. The show is about drama within a music and entertainment company run by Howard's fictional character, Lucious Lyon.

Music from the show has also been turned into chart-topping album.

The violent tendencies and homophobia of Lyon's character threaten to tarnish Empire Distribution's business, Empire Distribution's attorney Michael Hobbs Jr., wrote in a Feb. 16 letter.

Empire Distribution's "conduct threatens to place a cloud over Fox's intellectual property rights in the fictional television series 'Empire' and the Soundtrack Music," Fox's lawsuit states.

"We are confident that this is a textbook trademark infringement case," Hobbs wrote in a statement Tuesday.

The lawsuit was first reported on Tuesday by The Hollywood Reporter.

Short-cut cooking is source of guilt for busy new wife

DEAR ABBY: I am a full-time working woman, part-time student and new wife to an incredible husband. We're in our mid-20s and have been living together for a year, but I have a problem that I'm still unsure about.

Growing up I never learned to cook. The first meal I ever made was spaghetti when my husband (then fiancé) and I moved into our home. My issue is, I HATE cooking. I don't have the patience for it and neither does my husband.

Should I be ashamed that I indulge in "box" dinners that take little time to prepare? Naturally, I cook meat and vegetables to go along with them, but is it shameful when a wife doesn't cook everything from scratch? My husband doesn't mind, but I worry. Shouldn't a wife cook real meals for her husband?

NEW WIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEW WIFE: Because many couples both work, many husbands and wives take turns cooking or prepare dinner together. ("Honey, I'll do the salad and vegetables; you fix the chicken/fish/chops on the grill.") The problem with pre-packaged meals is that many of them contain more sodium and/or other additives that nutritionists say are bad for one's health when consumed on a regular basis, so I think you do have cause for concern. The most important ingredient in a

lasting marriage is a partner who lasts, so if you want yours to last, be vigilant about what you put in your stomachs.

♦ ♦ ♦

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 29-year-old woman and I have been with my fiancé, "Gary," for three years. We became engaged six months ago.

When I brought up wedding ideas recently, Gary responded with, "There are things that have to be resolved before I can even think about getting married." In the discussion that followed, he said I need to get a better-paying job so I can contribute to the renovations on the house, buy my own personal items and have a shorter commute.

I'm hurt because I believe marriage is about committing to the person you love. I also realize you can't live on love alone. Am I overly sensitive about this? Is Gary's request reasonable, or do you think he's just looking for an excuse not to get married?

LOVE ABOVE ALL IN NEW YORK

DEAR LOVE ABOVE ALL: Pay attention to what your fiancé said because it appears he has unilaterally mapped out your future for you. This sounds less like a request to me than a demand. Open your eyes and keep talking with him.

Did he specify whether your name will be on the deed to the house you will contribute to renovating? (I hope so.) I also

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



hope you will be lucky enough to find a higher-paying job with a shorter commute, because not everyone is able to do that.

Because I believe in both love and practicality, I think it's important you and Gary have premarital counseling together to clarify whether you're on the same page regarding finances.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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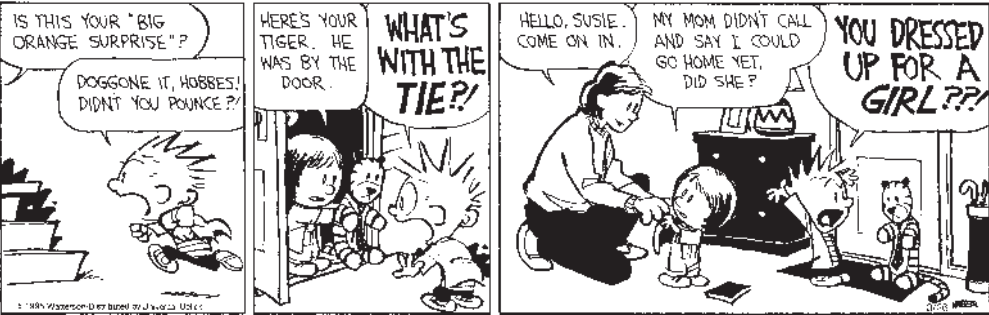
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

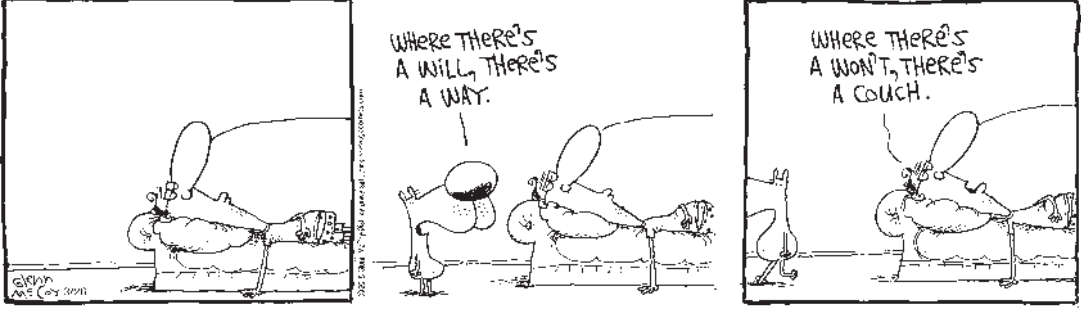
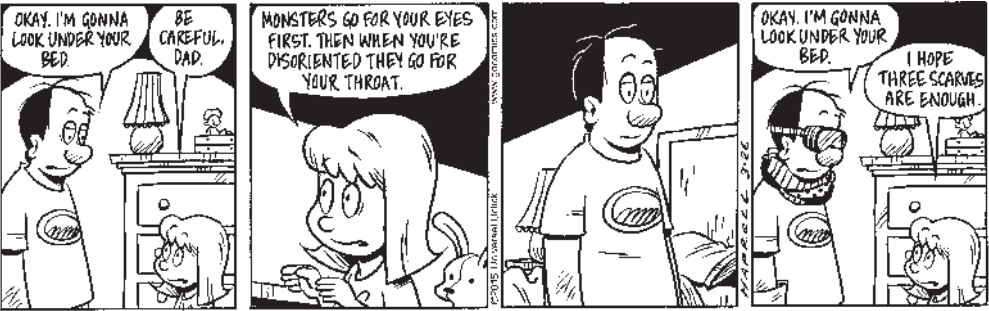


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Star Trek" speed

5 Cribbage props

9 Upper limit

12 Largest of the seven

13 Penetrating wind?

14 Time of your life

15 Hangout for game fans

17 Greek consonants

18 Off the track

19 YouTube offering

21 On the other hand

22 Ask

24 Humorous utterance

27 Sickness cause

28 Black, in verse

31 Dadaist artist

32 Have a 27-Across

33 Exist

34 Boyfriend

36 Pigpen

37 Staff, at sea

38 What pupils attend

40 Scale member

41 Nutritionists' recommendations

43 Power failure

47 Plagiarize

48 Cyclist's mustache?

51 Schedule abbr.

52 "Zounds!"

53 Piratic quaffs

54 1940s headline word

55 Weeps loudly

56 Undo a dele

20 Rage

22 Gives up

23 In pre-swam mode

24 Poke

25 Previous to

26 It's below

27 Low voice

29 Raw rock

30 Fresh

35 Last (Abbr.)

37 Provides

39 McCourt's "Angela's"

40 Suffix with cup or cap

41 Carey or Barrymore

42 Speck

43 Probability

44 Touch

45 Up for it

46 Formerly, formerly

49 Past

50 Apprehend

Solution time: 24 mins.

POPS BOS FVFR
ITEM RJT REED
ATROCITY ORES
FOUGHT LITANY
BET PEW ACIDS
UTER NAP ATOP
MANIA GAD YEA
JACKET ANIMAL
ARIL AJDACITY
MITE FRI ODOR
BAYS FIN TIME

Yesterday's answer 3-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 30; Kenny Chesney, 47; Martin Short, 65; Steven Tyler, 67.

Happy Birthday: You'll be ready to take on the world. Explore your options and take on as much as you can. The rewards you receive for the assistance and contributions you make will put your mind at ease and bring you greater options to turn an idea or investment into something tangible. Strive for perfection by using your imagination and insight. Your numbers are 5, 12, 26, 28, 30, 37, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look on the bright side and make plans to do something a little different. Activity and sharing an adventure with someone special will give you a new lease on life. A short trip will spark an idea or a residential move. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a list of the people you want to connect with who can help you reach your career goals. Discussing what you have to offer will help you revamp your resume to suit the changing economic climate. Update your image. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do something to improve your community or support a cause you endorse. Your ability to bring about change and your willingness to reach out to those in need will give you the push required to excel. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a quiet or secretive approach to what you feel needs to be done. Flying under the radar will ensure that you avoid interference. Someone

will mislead you if you rely on hearsay. Put more effort into an important relationship. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be open about the way you feel and what your expectations are. The changes you want to make will be much easier if you have the approval of the people who mean the most to you. Secure your position by taking action. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Form an alliance with someone who feels the same way you do about a concern you have. Making a difference in your community will put you in a position requiring diplomacy, strength and determination. Don't let anyone stand in your way. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't believe everything you hear. Being gullible will make you look bad and can end up being costly as well. Do your own research and make changes based on your needs, not on what someone else wants. Don't give in to bullying. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get your documents in order to avoid any trouble with banks, government agencies or other institutions. Preparation will spare you grief as well as legal troubles. Follow your intuitions and act quickly. Contracts and financial deals look promising. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow your heart, not what someone else wants. You have to stand up for your rights. Deferring to someone in order to avoid discord will only make matters worse. Do your own thing and don't look back. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make positive changes at home or to the way you live. Don't be tempted to copy what someone else is doing. Putting greater effort into a personal relationship will help you avoid an outpouring of complaints. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Restlessness will kick in if you aren't challenged by your current career. Consider your options and determine how you can use your skills differently. Don't be afraid to set your goals high. You'll find it easy to learn as you go. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to give in to someone who is using emotional manipulation. Stand up for your rights and follow through with the plans that interest you the most. A change at home can be made if you act quickly. **

Birthday Baby: You are playful, unpredictable and unique. You are quick and free-spirited.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/26

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6 8 1 2 9 4 7 5 3
5 2 4 6 3 7 9 8 1
3 9 7 8 5 1 6 4 2
9 5 2 1 7 8 4 3 6
7 6 8 4 2 3 5 1 9
4 1 3 9 6 5 8 2 7
2 4 6 3 8 9 1 7 5
1 3 5 7 4 6 2 9 8
8 7 9 5 1 2 3 6 4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SNAPDRAGONS Solution: 9 letters

SYMBOLBREFRESHFS
GPYTEIRAVFDEAAT
AAROCLOCSHAIJNN
VNRISSRENIATNOCA
AMNDNWOBWKGOSYL
SCUUEGGOURNSMLP
ETANANLWBAIAIOU
WYERILOAENPERNR
EDDMEHWTA CLSCGP
ANMYMWREUEAPNSL
TUPTIEORETGNI GDE
HGENUSDLISTKRES
ERALUBUTFTIEOEO
RUKROODTUONSWSL
FBRONZECLPGAULC

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Annual, Antirrhinum, Beautiful, Bronze, Burgundy, Care, Close, Color, Containers, Crimson, Cutting, Dragons, Edging, Fancy, Flower, Fragrance, Fresh, Garden, Genus, Glow, Grow, Hummingbirds, Jars, Long, Outdoor, Peak, Pink, Planting, Plants, Pots, Purple, Rainbow, Season, Seeds, Spikes, Spring, Stemmed, Symbol, Tubular, Variety, Vase, View, Water, Weather, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Purines

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Warriors clinch division with 122-108 victory over Blazers



PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The music was turned up in the locker room and the mood was festive, but Golden State didn't overdo the celebration of the team's first division title in 39 years.

These Warriors aren't done yet.

"We might be a little subdued, but I think everybody is proud of what we've done. We still have 11 games left to keep getting better so I think everybody is focused on that," Stephen Curry said. "But I think everybody is pretty happy right now."

Curry had 33 points and 10 assists and the Warriors pulled away from the short-handed Trail Blazers in the second half for a 122-108 victory on Tuesday night. Andre Iguodala came off the bench to score 21 points for the Warriors, who won their seventh straight to push their record to an NBA-best 58-13.

Golden State hasn't won the Pacific Division crown since the 1975-76 season, the year after the team won the NBA championship.

After the game, many players sported T-shirts that read "Pacific Claimed."

With a comfortable lead on second-place Memphis in the Western Conference, the Warriors have dropped just one of their last 12 games. Playing the second of a back-to-back, the team shot a season-high 60.2 percent for the game.

"Golden State is a terrific team," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "They're solid on both ends of the court and they showed that. They were very good all night. They passed the ball well - they had 30 assists after three quarters and 37 for the game. They kind of put on a clinic as far as how to share the ball."

Damian Lillard had 29 points for the Blazers, who have lost five straight following a 1-4 road trip. Despite the slump, Portland has remained atop the Northwest Division, five games in front of Oklahoma City.

The Blazers were without All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge because of a left index finger sprain, as well as fellow starting forward Nicolas Batum, who has lower back pain. Backup center Chris Kaman was out because of a right shoulder strain.

Portland was already missing guard Wesley Matthews, who was lost for the rest of the season after rupturing his Achilles tendon on March 5 against Dallas. The Blazers have gone 3-5 without him.

Because of the absences, Portland started a lineup that included regulars Lillard and Robin Lopez, along with Matthews' replacement Arron Affalo and reserves Alonzo Gee and Dorell Wright.

Golden State limited guard Klay Thompson to 25 minutes because of a sore ankle that



AP
Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) shoots against Portland Trail Blazers' Dorell Wright, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

kept him out of three games during the team's homestand. Thompson, who finished with 16 points, returned on Monday night for the Warrior's 107-76 victory over the Washington Wizards.

Draymond Green added 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Andrew Bogut had 10 points and 16 rebounds.

"We're very comfortable with how we're going to get shots every single night," coach Steve Kerr said. "Then it's just about executing and not turning the ball over, staying aggressive and making the smart plays."

Thunder 127, Lakers 117

In Oklahoma City, NBA scoring leader Russell Westbrook poured in 27 points and added 11 assists and Enes Kanter contributed 25 points and 16 rebounds for the Thunder's fourth straight victory.

Kanter had a double-double in the first quarter with 15 points and 10 rebounds as Oklahoma City raced out to a 37-27 lead.

After trailing by 15 at the half, the Lakers closed to 70-61 before Westbrook scored twice in 15 seconds on his way to 14 third-quarter points.

The Thunder led 100-88 after three and played reserves most of the fourth quarter.

Jordan Clarkson scored 30 for the Lakers, who lost for the 10th time in their last 12 games.

Mavericks 101, Spurs 94

In Dallas, Monta Ellis matched his season high with 38 points as the Dallas Mavericks rallied in the second half.

Ellis hit 16 of 27 field-goal attempts, bouncing back from his 4-for-22 performance Sunday in a loss at Phoenix. In three games this season against the Spurs, Ellis is averaging 34 points.

Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 19 points and Danny Green added 17.

The victory pulled Dallas within percentage points of sixth-place San Antonio in the Western Conference.

Bucks 89, Heat 88

In Milwaukee, Khris Middleton hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer as the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a six-game losing streak with an 89-88 comeback victory in a key game for the sixth spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Bayless missed on a drive down the lane, but Zaza Pachulia tapped the ball back out to Middleton, who buried the winner. He finished with 13.

It was a crucial victory for the

Bucks, who improved to 35-36 to remain in sixth place in the conference, while the Heat fell to 32-38. The Bucks also swept the four-game season series with the Heat to ensure the tie-breaker between the teams.

Ilyasova had 19 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 16 for the Bucks, who won for just the fourth time in 18 games.

Wade had 21 points and Goran Dragic added 16 for the Heat.

Pistons 108, Raptors 104

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Reggie Jackson had 28 points and nine assists, and Andre Drummond added 21 points and 18 rebounds for the Detroit Pistons.

Jackson and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope combined for 54 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in the game without committing a turnover.

DeMar DeRozan had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost point guard Kyle Lowry to back spasms in the second quarter.

Kings 107, 76ers 106

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 33 points and 17 rebounds as the Sacramento Kings dealt the Phila-

delphia 76ers their 16th straight road loss.

The Kings limited Philadelphia to no field goals and three points in the final 6:12 of the game to register their first-three-game winning streak since late November.

Rudy Gay had 21 points and

eight rebounds and Ray McCallum added 11 points for the Kings, who have a 7-11 record since George Karl began coaching the team in mid-February.

Robert Covington had five 3-pointers and scored 21 for the 76ers.

Ready, set, scramble! Chaos defines end of tourney games



OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—

In the 2008 national championship, with Kansas trailing Memphis by three and 10.8 seconds left in the game, coach Bill Self called for his team to run a play called "Chop."

The play, designed to provide multiple scoring options in moments of desperation, began with Sherron Collins dribbling up the court. Veering to his right, Collins handed off to Mario Chalmers at the top of the key, and Chalmers took the first of his options: He shot the 3-pointer.

It splashed through the net to force overtime.

Kansas went on to win the title, and that perfectly executed play became known as "Mario's Miracle." And if anybody thinks calling it a miracle is hyperbole, well, chances are they haven't been watching as teams flounder through the final minutes in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Turnovers, missed shots, poor coaching and worse execution. Just call it organized chaos, late-game blunders that have nevertheless produced some memorable finishes.

"First of all, the reason you struggle in games is because the other team's pretty dog-gone good," explained North Carolina coach Roy Williams, whose team survived two close games to reach the Sweet 16. "The other thing is the attention, the pressure—they're still 18-, 19-, 20-year-old kids. I mean, they're not going to get it right."

Indeed, many of today's brightest stars are freshmen and sophomore, players unaccustomed to the game's biggest stage. That dearth of veteran leaders, several coaches have argued, is also one of the big reasons that that scoring continued its downward trend this season.

Another reason for the late-game flubs: Low- and mid-majors are often trying to upset a heavyweight, and the talent gap becomes more pronounced when the game is on the line.

That appeared to be the case last Thursday, when UC-Irvine had Louisville on

the ropes.

The Anteaters were inbound the ball near mid-court, trailing 57-55 with about 6 seconds left. Alex Young was promptly stripped by the Cardinals' Terry Rozier, a turnover 40 feet from the hoop that prevented the Big West champs from even attempting a tying shot.

"We had a quick play lined up and unfortunately I lost the ball," Young said. "We couldn't get a timeout, and it just happens. It's basketball."

Speaking of timeouts, Northeastern burned through its allotment in the second half against Notre Dame, leaving coach Bill Coen unable to set up a final play with the Huskies trailing by two in the closing seconds. Instead of getting a tying shot off, Quincy Ford coughed up the ball, and the Fighting Irish added a couple of free throws to seal the victory.

Asked about his timeout dilemma, Coen replied: "I wish we'd had one left."

Irvine and Northeastern weren't the only teams that failed to get shots off with the game on the line, either. The same thing happened to Valparaiso, whose coach Bryce Drew knocked down that infamous 3-pointer that sent the Crusaders past Ole Miss in 1998.

Valpo was trailing Maryland 65-62 with time running out on Friday, and Keith Carter got stuck in the corner in front of his own bench. He never even got a 3-pointer off.

"I'll take the blame from that," Drew said afterward. "I thought Maryland did a really good job. We tried to do something a little different off one of the plays we usually run."

When the Jayhawks flawlessly ran "Chop" in the 2008 title game, they had practiced that exact play hundreds of times. And the person who took the 3-pointer? Chalmers, a seasoned junior.

"There is a lot of pressure," acknowledged Williams, who whose Tar Heels survived a tense finish against Harvard in their NCAA opener. "You've got to find some kids that can block all that out, and especially if they're really, really talented, you've got a better chance."

Rich get richer: Mayweather and Pacquiao purses soar



LAS VEGAS (AP)—The first ticket has yet to be sold, but the richest fight in box-

ing history is getting richer by the day.

New estimates show Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s payoff for fighting Manny Pacquiao could easily be \$180 million, up substantially from earlier predictions of \$120 million. Pacquiao gets the short end of the purse, but even that is expected to be well over \$100 million by the time everything is tallied up.

The money is staggering, though not exactly unexpected. Five years of waiting seem to have only piqued the public's demand for the one fight even casual fans of the sport want to see.

"For whatever it's worth, the buildup over these years has certainly enhanced the fight," promoter Bob Arum. "Everybody knows about it now, even people who don't follow boxing. Plus we have a good economy, unlike in 2009 when people were out of work and didn't have the money to spend."

Fans will certainly have to pay a price to see the May 2 welterweight title bout, especially those lucky enough to score a ticket inside the MGM Grand arena itself. Ticket prices there range from \$1,500 in the upper deck to \$7,500 at ringside—and only a small percentage of the tickets will actually be put on public sale.

Arum said Tuesday the gate at the MGM alone will be more than \$72 million, obliterating the previous live gate record

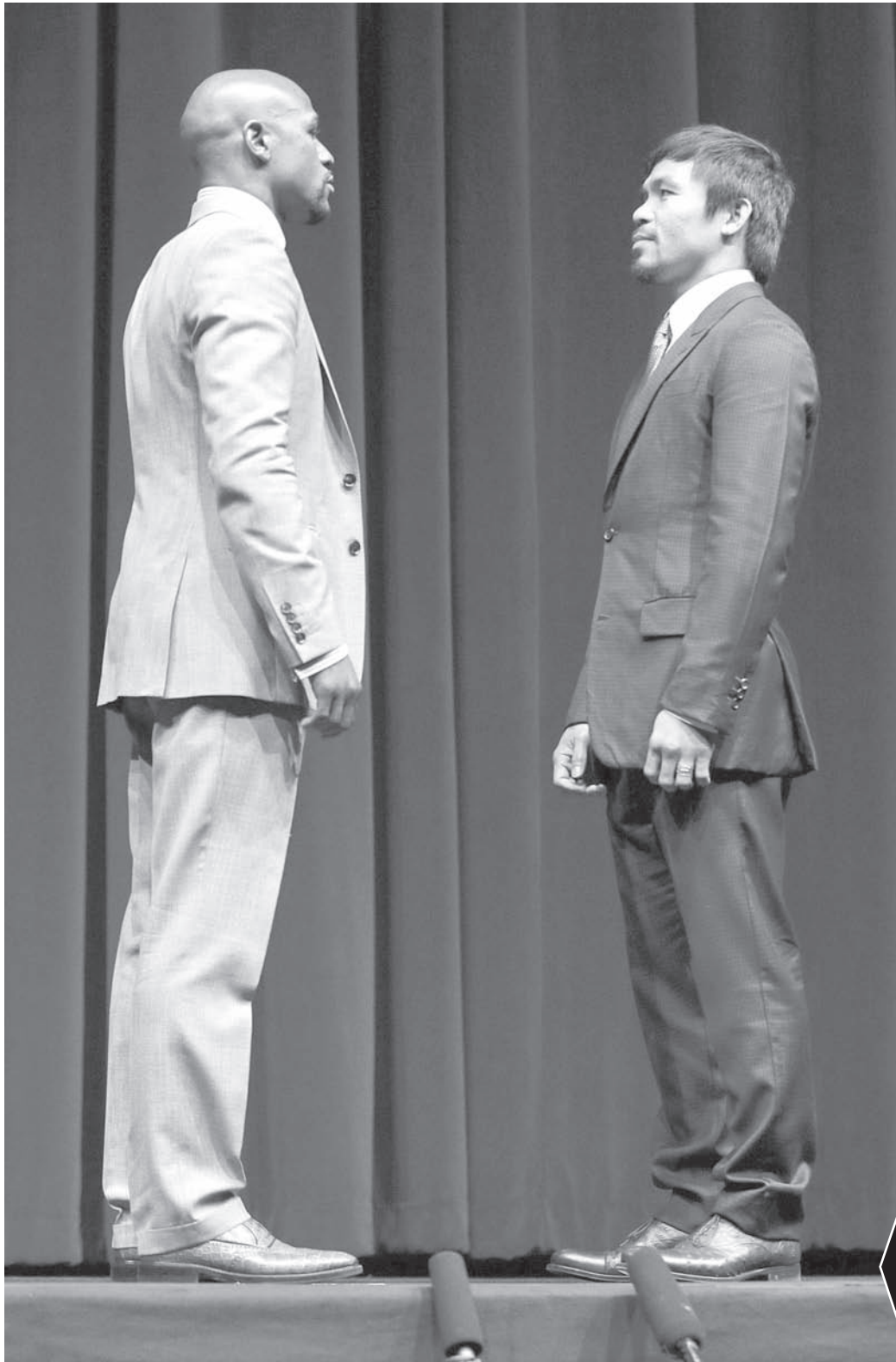
of \$20 million in Nevada set by Mayweather's 2013 fight with Canelo Alvarez. Though the MGM will provide some tickets for its biggest gamblers, Arum said even the celebrities who can normally get free tickets to sit ringside will have to pay full fare for the fight—if they can get their hands on tickets at all.

Promoters announced a deal Tuesday with Sky Sports to televise the fight on pay-per-view in England and parts of Europe, part of another \$35 million expected to come in from foreign rights. Add in another \$10 million in sponsorships—Tecate beer will be the main sponsor—and the fight will gross more than \$100 million before a single home in North America buys the pay-per-view.

Less certain is how many people will spend what is expected to be \$100 or so for the pay-per-view in the U.S., but that could easily break records, too. Mayweather's 2007 fight with Oscar De La Hoya currently tops the charts with 2.44 million buys, but many think Mayweather-Pacquiao could do more than 3 million homes despite softness in the pay-per-view market in the last few years.

"That's the one element that's a mystery," Arum told The Associated Press. "It seems like it will break the record, but who really knows? Anyone who predicts the total pay-per-view is whistling in the dark."

Cable networks HBO and Showtime have yet to announce the pay-per-view price, saying they are still in negotiations with cable systems and satellite providers. Those



negotiations are mostly about how the money will be divided between the broadcasters and the fight promoters, who historically have split revenues fairly equally.

With promoters holding the upper hand for this fight, though, that split could end up 65-35 in favor of the promotion. And if 3 million homes buy the fight at \$100, that would mean about \$200 million in revenue to Mayweather Promotions and Arum's Top Rank from pay-per-view alone.

Add in the other money and the two camps will have more than \$300 million to divvy up. With Mayweather getting a 60-40 split, that would mean a purse of \$180 million or more to Mayweather and \$120 million or more to Pacquiao.

Both purses would dwarf the biggest ever in boxing, including the 2007 fight with Mayweather in which De La Hoya made a reported \$52 million. Mayweather's biggest payday was against Alvarez, when he was guaranteed \$41.5 million and may have made another \$20 million off the pay-per-view sales.

"You get to this level where you're making nine figures in 36 minutes," Mayweather said at the fight press conference this month in Los Angeles, "and you have to be a winner."

Judging from the money on the table in this bout, it's hard to find a loser.

AP
Boxers Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, pose for photos during a news conference, Wednesday, March 11, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Ex-NFL star Sharper pleads guilty in Vegas sex assault case



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Former NFL star Darren Sharper pleaded guilty Tuesday in

Las Vegas to a reduced felony attempted sex assault charge, in the third part of a four-state plea deal that prosecutors say will put him in federal prison for about nine years.

Appearing by Internet hookup from a courtroom in Los Angeles, Sharper entered his plea before Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Herndon, who scheduled sentencing for June 25.

A plea agreement calls for Sharper to serve 38 months to eight years in prison for the Nevada conviction, but at the same time as sentences from California, Arizona and Louisiana.

On Monday, the 39-year-old Sharper pleaded guilty to sexual assault in Arizona—again using an Internet hookup—and no contest in Los Angeles to raping two women he drugged after meeting them in a West Holly-



Former NFL safety Darren Sharper, center, with his attorneys, Lisa Wayne, left, and Leonard Levine, right, appear in Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday, March 23, 2015.

wood bar.

He was sentenced to nine years in the Arizona case and will face 20 years in the California case when he's sentenced July 15. The California

no-contest pleas have the same effect as a conviction, and state sentencing rules will have him serve about nine years.

Sharper is due in federal court April 6 in New Orleans, the city

where he won a Super Bowl as a member of the NFL Saints franchise. He's due in Louisiana state court 10 days later.

Sharper wore an orange jail uniform with "LA County"

stamped over his chest pocket as he sat Tuesday in Los Angeles flanked by attorneys Blair Berk and Lisa Wayne.

One of his Las Vegas lawyers, Richard Schonfeld, appeared on his behalf—first before a Las Vegas justice of the peace and then before Herndon.

The former all-pro safety cleared his throat and said, "Guilty," when asked to enter his plea.

Sharper's other lawyer, David Chesnoff, issued a statement noting that Sharper took responsibility in the Las Vegas case.

Sharper could have faced 20 years to life in Nevada state prison on two sexual assault charges filed against him last week in Las Vegas.

Those charges were dropped as part of the plea agreement. Prosecutor Craig Hendricks said he spoke with the two victims, both in their mid-20s, before terms of Sharper's plea deal were made public.

Sharper was accused of club-hopping with the women in Janu-

ary 2014 before taking them to his room at a Las Vegas Strip hotel, drugging them and raping them while they were unconscious.

Police and prosecutors characterized the Las Vegas case as weaker than in California, Arizona and Louisiana because the women didn't report the attack until after they returned home and heard about similar allegations against Sharper.

District Attorney Steve Wolfson said Tuesday he was satisfied that Sharper was accepting responsibility for his crimes in Las Vegas and the other states.

Sharper retired in 2011 after a 14-year NFL career as with the Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings and the Saints. He won a Super Bowl in New Orleans.

He was working as an NFL network analyst when women began telling police in several cities similar stories of blacking out while drinking with him and waking up groggy to find they had been sexually abused.

His arrest came as the league dealt with off-field problems with players accused of crimes ranging from spousal abuse to murder.

Joshua snaps skid; Gideon wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joshua is back on track following a 76-66 victory over Samuel in 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Darwin Gonzales and Allan Chavez joined forces in lifting Joshua to the 10-point win, that snapped the team's three game-losing skid and improved its record to 2-3. Joshua won its season-debut against Ezekiel last month, 60-54, but dropped its next three matches versus Isaiah, Gideon, and Daniel.

Gonzales scored a game-high 26 points to give Joshua its second win, while Chavez backed him up, adding 25. Both players

hit double figures in the second half to help Joshua maintain a safe distance against slumping Samuel, which remained at the bottom of the team standings with its 0-5 record.

Samuel was still very much in the game after the first half, behind by only 2 points, 23-25. Ronnie Guevarra sizzled for 15 first-half points to keep Samuel afloat. He single-handedly carried the fight for Samuel, as his four other teammates who made it to the board tallied no more than 3 points.

Joshua, on the other hand, offset Gonzales' first-half explosion, after drawing 9 and 8 points from Gonzales and Chavez, respectively. Russell Dequito and Jess Calub were

the other scorers for Samuel in the first 20 minutes of play chipping in 4 apiece.

In the second half, Joshua doubled up its output with Gonzales and Chavez still on target, while Dequito picked up his scoring and the team got contributions from two more players. Gonzales poured in 17 points off six field goals and five free throws, while Chavez fired 15. Dequito hit a triple and finished with 10 in the second half, while Roger Abe came off the bench and added 6. Allaneth Montoyo also knocked in a triple in Joshua's second half domination.

Guevarra still led Samuel in the second half, gaining 11 more points and although five of his teammates also lit up the

board, their baskets came in late, as Joshua had the game in the bag.

Meanwhile, Gideon won

over Jeremiah in last Monday's second game. Gideon moved up to a 3-2 record for solo third place in the team standings behind Daniel (5-0) and Isaiah (4-1) and Caleb (4-1). Jeremiah joined Samuel at the cellar with its 0-5 slate.

Joshua 76 – Gonzales 26, Chavez 25, Dequito 14, Abe 6, Calub 4, Montoya 3.

Samuel 66 – Guevarra 26, Reyes 12, Badal 8, Bordon 8, Samonte 6, Belgado 4, Ponce 4.

Scoring by halves: 25-23, 76-66.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gideon's Lawrence Borja drives against Jeremiah's Jay Nunag, left, and Raymond Casuncad during the first half of their game in the Genesis Cup last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Australia, Chinese Taipei confirm participation

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Australia and Chinese Taipei confirmed their participation in the 2015 Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big league regional tournament that Saipan will be hosting from June 26 to July 5.

According to the regional tournament organizing committee, Australia will be sending a team in the Juniors division, while Chinese Taipei will be competing in the Junior and Big League classes.

The CNMI, Guam, Indonesia, and the Philippines are the only countries that confirmed fielding teams in all three divisions.

Tournament packets were also sent out to all Little League district administrators in the region.

The committee said they want to know at an earlier time how many teams are joining in order to finish the games schedule and how many hotel rooms are they going to reserve.

It will take two weeks to one month before they would

know the final list of competing countries in each division.

An umpire and the district administrator of each team are part of the delegation.

The regional tournament committee is estimating that they would reserve at least 85 hotel rooms, five per team, if all 17 squads that are spread out in the three divisions—which offers one spot each to the Little League World Series—decided to arrive.

The tournament committee is expecting that teams would

start arriving on June 25 and leave on July 6. Accommodation is also ready for any delegation that would come to Saipan at an earlier date.

The regional tournament committee would again meet on April 1 at 10am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room to decide in adopting the bylaws and at the same time update the committee assignments.

The local legislature has also appropriated \$50,000 for Saipan's hosting of the regional tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A CNMI batter swings in their game against Vietnam in last year's Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament in Clark, Pampanga, Philippines.

FORTIER

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Hakubotan in Beach Road and made it to the finish line about five minutes behind Fortier after clocking in at 2:36:24. Jeong finished ahead of Fortier in the swim leg held in the waters off Pacific Islands Club, 27:03 to 28:17, but the latter overhauled the deficit after the bike leg that brought riders to as far as the Mariana Resort & Spa. Fortier completed the bike leg in 1:07:10 against Jeong's 1:11:33 and hung on to the driver's seat after logging 46:31 in the run race versus the 47:48 of Jeong.

The Korean settled for the age group win in the 35 to 39 division, besting six others.

Other top finishers in the men's division were Jerome Diycyco, Kenta Takahashi, Wataru Takagi, Tyce Mister, Hyoung Ryoul You, Florence Antonio, Joshua Berger, and Horoshi Kosugi.

Diycyco won the U19 age group after submitting 2:43:04 and downing two others, while Mister defeated three other entries in the 44 to 49 age group after completing the race in 2:41:41. You prevailed in the 50 to 54 age group against four others after registering 2:51:36, while Antonio also made the three-

hour barrier with his 2:43:38 to rule the 55 to 59 division.

Berger (2:57:12), Kosugi (2:53:03), Takahashi (3:23:54), and Takagi (2:33:05) won the 60 to 64, 65 to 69, 25 to 29, and 30 to 34 age groups, respectively.

Tan completes solo race

In the women's division, Saipan's Angel Marie Tan emerged as the youngest finisher.

The 16-year-old athlete timed in at 3:07:30 in her first solo triathlon event. She was the first woman out of the water after submitting 22:25 and second overall behind Christian Villacrusis (21:58). Tan's two other

PARTICIPANTS

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said what Kroger taught them was the basic foundation of how to teach volleyball to kids, different movements inside the court, proper attacking, ways of playing, and other techniques that can be used in other sport.

"It starts with the proper body posture, how to work as a team, and how to develop individual skills in a very competitive way," said Trinidad, who has been a school administrator for 28 years.

"We can incorporate these techniques when training the youth, especially those who just started playing," added the former professor and sports coordi-

nator at the Philippine Merchant Marine School.

Yumul, a second grade teacher at GES, said Kroger also taught them various games that can be played by kids even with limited sports equipment.

"Aside from coaching and teaching the kids, we learned of different kinds of ball games, not just only for volleyball. And how to discipline and talk to kids, rules that are designed to them according to their age, and safety procedures."

"There are a lot of alternative events that would teach them about the values of team play, teamwork, and to live healthy," added Yumul, the wife of Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Mollie Atinisom, Linda Anastacio, Alvin Borja, Vitorette Camacho, Armi Cucal, Mark Dela Cruz, James Feger, Nick Gross, Amie McRoberts, Leora Ngrablosch, Ronald Olopai, Edwin Orilla, Brendon Perez, Laurie Peterka, Mili Saiki, Jonathan San Nicolas, Kristina Springer, Abner Venus, and Darcy Wylie are the others who participated in the six-day teachers training course.

Kroger is an International Federation of Volleyball instructor and coach who designed the Volleyball Cooperation Program, formerly Sports Aid Program, which included classroom sessions and practical applications where participants do some drills.

CHENTSOVA

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swims in the 1,500 freestyle and 50m breaststroke, Chentsova also joined in five other individual races and one relay.

She finished the 800m freestyle in 9:59:78, chopping off more than 20 seconds from her old personal best time (10:21:09). The SSC swimmer got PBTs in three more events—50m, 100, and 200m freestyle races. In the 50m freestyle, Chentsova broke the 30-second barrier with her 29.87 seconds, which is faster than her old PBT (30.52). In the 100m and 200m freestyle events, she registered

1:04.53 and 2:28.64, respectively, to surpass her previous PBTs of 1:05.82 and 2:23.01.

In her 100m butterfly debut, Chentsova timed in at 1:19.44, while in the 200m medley relay she teamed up with Christian Villacrusis, Kento Akimaru, and Jin Ju Thomson and they recorded 2:22.48 to beat Palau and Guam's Manhoben Swim Club teams.

On top of getting two age group marks, Chentsova also made it to the podium in the high-point race in the over 17 division. She placed runner-up to Palau's Dirngulbai Misech after collecting 68 points against the latter's 71.

Run Leg of 2015 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ AND ROSELYN MONROYO



Logan Mister heads to the finish line of last Sunday's 2015 Tagaman Triathlon.



Kaden Church speeds up to the finish line.



Erico Castro takes a break at one of the water stations.



Angie Mister celebrates her finish as teammate Maria Ornes, third from right, and supporters join her.



Kaoru Takahashi, gestures as her son greeted her near the finish line.



Tinian's Allen Perez smiles as he nears completion of the race.



Tyce Mister, left, celebrates at the finish line with son Dylan.



Daz Parker of Great Britain reacts as she takes on the 21-kilometer run leg of the weekend race.



Rintaro Miyawaki, left, is egged on by her friends to sprint to the finish line.



Switzerland's Renata Bucher paces herself as she runs along the Susupe area near Kanoa Resort.



**Warriors
clinch division
with 122-108
victory over
Blazers**
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**Joshua snaps
skid; Gideon
wins**

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28 THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Participants learn more than just v'ball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Three of the participants of Dr. Christian Kroger's teachers training course said they learned more than just playing volleyball, making them appreciate the sport more and giving them new techniques to teach the sport to younger kids.

Marianas High School intern M.C. Tipingeni, Marianas Baptist Academy principal Rev. Ramir Trinidad, and Garapan Elementary School teacher Joy Yumul said learning various techniques from Kroger would help them in introducing volleyball to kids.

Tipingeni said playing volleyball for close to 20 years and being an active member of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association made him think that he knows the sport very well.

"It was a great experience. I thought that being involved



in volleyball for quite some time made me think that I know the sport pretty well. It turns out that there's a lot more difference on the sport than just returning or hitting the ball," said Tipingeni.

"One thing that stuck in my mind is volleyball is not an easy sport. It evolves and you must not only play in one area. There are various techniques that Dr. Kroger taught us like how to interact inside the court."

Trinidad, on the other hand,

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JON PEREZ
Dr. Christian Kroger, second right, demonstrates the proper way of receiving the ball in one of the sessions of his six-day teachers training course.

Triumphant Tagaman return for Fortier



Triathlon with an overall top

Canada's Charles Fortier marked his return to the Tagaman

finish in the Olympic-distance course of last Sunday's event.

Fortier, who joined the 2013 edition of the road race and placed 10th in the men's pro field, timed in at 2:21:58 in this

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year's 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run to lead 44 other finishers. He also ruled the 40 to 44 age group, beating California's Timothy Trujillo (2:41:49), Korea's Hyunwoo Kim (3:03:33), and Saipan's Dencio Bautista (3:08:20).

"I was very happy with my time," said Fortier, who picked the run leg as the toughest part of the race because of the heat.

"The run was the most challenging especially coming from Canada at this time of the year. It was warm out there (course). I wasn't expecting to finish first although I was first off the bike, I knew the Korean competitor would probably catch me on the run, and he did. He was running at a much faster pace and I couldn't keep up with him. Unfortunately for him he missed the turnaround and I was too far to tell him," Fortier said.

The Canadian triathlete was referring to Jea Jeong, who overshot the turn across

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Canada's Charles Fortier heads north during the bike leg of last Sunday's 2015 Tagaman Triathlon.

Chentsova earns 2 swim records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova entered the CNMI swim record books after breaking two age group marks during the 2015 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet held this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Chentsova posted her first age group record right on the opening day (March 12) of the annual competition as she completed the 1,500m freestyle swim in 19:43.16 and broke the 12-year

mark of another SSC swimmer, Tamiko Winkfield. Winkfield held the previous record in the girls 17 to 18 age group at 19:54:00, which she registered on Jan. 10, 2003.

The 17-year-old swimmer's second age group record was earned in the last day (March 14) of the meet after she clocked in at 42.51 seconds in the 50m breaststroke race. The SSC bet shattered the 42.62 seconds Daime Rivera of Tsunami Saipan logged on Dec. 13, 2014.

With her two age group records, the Saipan International School student joined the ranks of Xenavee Pangelinan and Anneka Sakovich. Pangelinan still holds the most records in the girls 17 to 18 age group, owning 14, while Sakovich has one, which is also the oldest (9:50.22 in 800m freestyle posted on Aug. 18, 1995).

Besides her record-breaking

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova races in the 200m freestyle event of the 2015 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet held this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.